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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-015

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Steering Committee Concludes Meeting in Cairo

NC2301195695 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The multilateral talks steering committee concluded its two-day meeting in Cairo this evening. The committee included representatives from Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Norway, Canada, Japan, and the European Union, as well as the United States and Russia in their capacity as cosponsors of the peace conference.

Diplomatic sources have told MENA that the steering committee—charged with following up the work of the various multilateral talks committees—namely the water, economic development, environment, security, disarmament, and refugees committees—discussed the possibility of issuing a declaration of principles on the goals of the multilateral talks, goals which include bringing about rapprochement among the Middle East nations and achieving prosperity and progress for them within the framework of peace, stability, and peace.

Iran's Velayati Opens 5th ECO Ministerial Session

LD2101094395 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 21 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The fifth meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, member states opened today in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister and the rotating chairman of this council for the past year, opened the meeting.

Iran, Pakistan and Turkey—as the founder members of the ECO—as well as Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan, are represented at the ministerial level at the meeting. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan are taking part at the deputy minister level.

According to a correspondent from the Central News Unit at the opening ceremony, a message from Turkmen President Saparmurad Atayavich Niyazov was read out at the meeting. Also, Yurishykh Muradov, the Turkmen deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was chosen as the new rotating chairman of the council for the next year.

ECO Secretary General Shamshad Ahmad [of Pakistan], submitted a report on the activities of ECO during the past year.

Summit Ends With Signing of Agreements

LD2301130995 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The ministerial meeting of member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, held in the Turkmenistan capital city of Ashgabat ended at midday today.

At the conclusion of the meeting an agreement was signed on provision of travel facilities, issuing of visa for merchants of the member countries, transit of goods among the member states, establishment of the ECO economic development bank in Turkey, the ECO insurance company in Karachi, the ECO shipping and airline companies in Tehran, establishment of the ECO scientific center in Islamabad and setting up of the ECO cultural institute in Tehran.

Also at this session it was agreed that in order to cooperate with the UN development plan and the UN drugs control program, memoranda of understanding should be signed with these organizations of the UN.

The next ECO summit will be held in Islamabad from 23 to 25 Esfand [14 to 16 March 1995]. And the next session of the ministerial council and heads of the ECO member states will be held in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, in January 1996.

The Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati headed the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation to the ECO ministerial meeting in the Republic of Turkmenistan.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Damascus Declaration Ministers To Meet in Early Feb

NC2201064695 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 21 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries will meet in Cairo during the first week of February.

In remarks he made this evening after meeting with Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Musa said that he will make an official visit to Japan on 8 February and will visit the United States in mid-February.

Husayn-Mubarak Summit Said To Support Syria

JN2201090495 *Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jan 95 pp 1, 24*

[Report by Hatim Ghanim]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Jordan and meeting with His Majesty King Husayn in al-'Aqabah has been viewed by diplomats here as a first step toward achieving a comprehensive Arab reconciliation.

Those diplomats expect the al-'Aqabah summit to expedite Jordanian-Kuwaiti reconciliation in particular and reconciliation with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states in general. It should be noted, however, that Jordan's relations with some GCC states are normal.

The diplomats did not rule out that the talks between the two Arab leaders dealt with the revival of a "diplomatic" Arab eastern front to muster firm Arab support for the Syrian negotiatory position.

The diplomats noted that the current Egyptian move focuses on putting the breaks on Arab "hastiness" to normalize relations with Israel, which began to toughen its negotiatory position and "go back" on agreements it concluded.

An Arab observer believes that "reviving" the Arab League in accordance with new and firm bases and putting the Arab house back in order were on the agenda of the two Arab leaders' meeting. The observer expected an acceleration of inter-Arab visits and consultations to prepare for "Arab reunion" and crystallize an Arab "plan" to achieve a comprehensive reconciliation.

The observer noted that Jordan will play an important role with some parties in this regard. Within this context, the diplomats in Cairo expect invitations to go out within months for an Arab meeting perhaps on the level of the foreign ministers.

Undoubtedly, the al-'Aqabah summit is an important step to arrive at an Arab understanding leading to openness, handshakes, and reconciliations.

Delegations Discuss Palestinian Evacuees Issue

NC2201113195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT
22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Egyptian, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations held a tripartite meeting at the Foreign Ministry today to coordinate their countries' stances on the problem of Palestinian evacuees from 1967.

This meeting precedes meetings of the quadripartite committee comprising representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, to discuss the Palestinian evacuees problem and repatriate them to their country.

The Egyptian side was led by Ambassador Badr Ham-mam, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, while the Jordanian side was headed by Ambassador 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Hayja', director of the Palestine desk at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. Ahmad al-Tamimi, deputy interior minister in the Palestinian Authority, chaired the Palestinian delegation.

Arab League Chief on Coordinating Approach to NPT

NC2201162195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isma't 'Abd-al-Majid has stressed that the Arab League is currently holding intensive contacts with the member states to coordinate stands to work out a

common Arab concept of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] for its review in April. He noted that there is full Arab support for the Egyptian stand and for President Mubarak's initiative to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and to make the Arab countries' signing of the NPT contingent on Israel's signing.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 10 Jan

NC1901125695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. UK Ambassador Interviewed on Islamic Issues
2. Writer Deplores Muslims' 'Slumber' Over Chechnya, Bosnia
3. Writer on Egyptian Communists' Stance on Islamic Issues
4. Columnist Urges Muslim Nation To Take Action Against Russia
5. Writer Criticizes U.S. Pressure Over Nuclear Treaty
6. Chief Editor Praises U.S. Administration's Stance on Islam

UK AMBASSADOR INTERVIEWED ON ISLAMIC ISSUES

In a 4,500-word interview on page 1 and all of pages 4 and 5 with UK Ambassador to Egypt Christopher Long by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and Basyuni al-Halawani, Long praises Egypt's leading Islamic and cultural role. He notes that Islam is "the basis of modern civilization" and that it is a religion of tolerance and love that "rejects all forms of violence and terrorism." He says that the Western press linking Islam with terrorism is a result of an "apparent ignorance of Islam and its tenets." He stresses that the West's relations with the Islamic world will improve and that good intentions between the two parties are imperative to establish amicable relations between the Islamic and Christian peoples. He says the British Government wants to strengthen its relations with the Islamic world, primarily Egypt. On the prevailing belief in some Islamic countries that the West sees confrontation with Islam as the next danger after the collapse of Marxism, he says: There is no confrontation between the West and Islam. Asked about Britain and other Western nations giving shelter to extremists, he says the law in Britain ensures freedom of expression but Britain tries to bar the entry of extremists. He says that what is happening to the Muslims in Bosnia is a human tragedy rejected by people everywhere, primarily the British people.

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WRITER DEPLORES MUSLIMS' 'SLUMBER' OVER BOSNIA, CHECHNYA

In his 500-word column "With All Frankness" on page 6, Basyuni al-Halawani says that what is happening to Muslims in the Islamic republic of Chechnya is "saddening." He claims that Muslims everywhere have become easy prey for aggressors, noting that no UN organization that sings the praises of human rights has done anything. He argues that the sad events in Chechnya after Bosnia affirm that the Muslims are in "slumber" and that they are not bothered that their blood has become so cheap. It is painful and sad that the Islamic countries just watch these events and their leaders are not moved to help Muslim victims, he says, adding: It is ironic that demonstrations condemning the bestial aggression are staged inside Russia itself whereas Muslims are in a self-imposed slumber. He argues that Russian hostility to Islam became evident after its aggression against Afghanistan and its later support for the "criminal Serbs" against the Bosnian Muslims and their "dirty war" against the Muslim Chechens. I do not know what the Muslims are waiting for, he says: They consider Russia a friendly country and offer it trade facilities and even financial aid to solve its economic crisis.

WRITER CRITICIZES EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS' STANCE ON ISLAMIC ISSUES

In a 500-word column entitled the "Communist-Capitalist Alliance" on page 10, Majdi Salim argues that the Egyptian communists and Marxists adopt a puzzling stance. "They are more Catholic than the pope," he asserts, because while Russia gave up Communism, they continue to ardently advocate it. They have double standards on freedom and human rights, he suggests, stating: While they talk of human rights in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, they argue that it is legal for the minority opposition there to use force to resist the regimes. But when it comes to human rights and self-determination in Russia and the Muslim nations under its influence, it is a different issue entirely. The Egyptian communists endorse Russia's invasion of Chechnya, as they did the attacks on Muslims in Bosnia and elsewhere. Aggression against Muslims does not concern them because this "contravenes their view of Islam and Muslims as their primary enemy." He claims that they are even ready to "ally with the capitalist West to destroy Islam and Muslims," which is what is currently happening in Chechnya and Bosnia.

WRITER URGES MUSLIM NATION TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST RUSSIA

In a 350-word column entitled "Russia and Iraq" on page 20, 'Adil Dayf says he regrets that the Islamic world contents itself with watching the barbaric Russian invasion of Chechnya and has failed to offer any aid to a people that he says have been crushed by tanks and devastated by air raids. The Islamic world must "boycott" Russia and "freeze" all trade dealings with it, the

author states, adding: The Islamic countries severely punish Iraq for invading Kuwait despite its withdrawal from and recognition of Kuwait. He asks: Why has Russia not been punished for its crime against Chechnya? The writer continues: For the sake of fairness, the Islamic nation should have requested a meeting of the UN Security Council to debate the "imposition of sanctions" on Russia. The Islamic countries can support the Muslims in Chechnya and confront their enemies, whose intentions against Muslims in Bosnia and Chechnya are evident, he claims. He suggests: The Islamic world can thus prove to the world and to the enemies of Islam that it is a "major power." The Chechens have proved that when Muslims cling to Islam they can defeat the most powerful and evil force in the world.

WRITER CRITICIZES U.S. PRESSURE OVER NUCLEAR TREATY

In a 700-word article on page 21, Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl says that Israel has 200 nuclear warheads, according to international reports, and has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The United States is "aware of this and ignores it," he maintains, and even joins the Israelis in "threatening Iran and pressuring Egypt" to halt their nuclear programs, although they "do not have nuclear weapons" and their nuclear installations are subject to international inspection. Noting that U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry visited Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, and India to urge them to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the author says that his visit coincided with a campaign by U.S. Jewish-controlled newspapers against Iran, although its nuclear program is intended for peaceful purposes. Perry is said not to have concealed his "anger" over Egypt's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and urged the other Arab countries to follow suit, unless Israel signs. This, the writer asserts, shows that Washington uses two standards in dealing with its friends. He says it is not an issue of fear of an extremist or communist country possessing nuclear arms, as Perry says, because Egypt and Pakistan will never be extremist or communist. The U.S. approach, he feels, can only be explained "within the context of war against Islam," because the notion of the so-called Islamic nuclear bomb still occupies U.S. and Western minds.

WRITER PRAISES U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE ON ISLAM

In his regular back page column "A Call To Reason," chief editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf notes, in a 500-word item, that U.S. Vice President Al Gore received the visiting Egyptian mufti, Shaykh Muhammad Tantawi. He says this shows, first, the U.S. Administration's official "appreciation of Islam and its symbols" and, second, U.S. appreciation of the mufti as a prominent Egyptian religious personality. He asserts that this is not the first U.S. gesture toward Islam as a religion, culture, and a moving force of humanity. He also argues that the U.S. Administration deals "positively and logically"

with the increasing Islamic presence in U.S. society, particularly within the army after the Gulf war. He says this is a promising sign but the Islamic peoples expect such signs to become part of a "general trend" in U.S. policy prompted not only by "personal interests," but by a more "comprehensive perspective." If this materializes, he says, it will change the U.S. stance on the Islamic peoples' issues. He says: We cannot ignore that the United States has become the sole superpower in the world and the main advocate of human rights and a new world order. He points out that the new world order must be built on fairness and logic, not on favoring personal interests.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 10 Jan
NC1801113795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 January edition of the Arabic-language AL-SHA'B newspaper that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Antigovernment Campaign Over 'Adil Husayn's Arrest Continues
2. Muslim Brotherhood Defended Against Terrorism Charges
3. Preacher al-Ghazali Says Enemies Determined to 'Kill' Islam
4. Politicians, Public Figures Form Anti-Israel Popular Movement

ANTIGOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN OVER 'ADIL HUSAYN'S ARREST CONTINUES

Like most issues since 27 December, this issue of AL-SHA'B is almost entirely devoted to news and comments relating to the arrest of 'Adil Husayn, journalist and secretary general of the Labor Party.

In a 3,500-word article on page 1, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn blames President Mubarak and the government for what he contends are undemocratic practices and for a failure to understand the opposition. He says no one in Egypt disagrees that the arrest of 'Adil Husayn "is a retroactive settling of accounts for everything he wrote, and a message to all writers, intellectuals, and thinkers in this country."

An approximately 6,000-word column by Dr. Muhammad 'Abbas fills page 7. The writer expresses anger at the arrest of Husayn and urges intellectuals to confront and challenge President Mubarak during their annual meeting with him on the sidelines of the Cairo Book Fair. He begins: "It saddens me that the president does not read the opposition papers, although his regime's security men arrest its leaders, torture its symbols, and turn deaf ears to their advice. So bad have things become during his [Mubarak's] era that Egypt is

now one of the 14 worst countries in the area of human rights. It is bottom of the list for economy and top for corruption."

The writer discusses Egypt's problems and suffering and says the state harmed itself and its image before the world when it arrested Husayn and treated him like a criminal. He refers to "security excesses" and urges intellectuals to tell the president "that the despotic and oppressive security service has gone beyond every limit and that it must be curbed or else it will set the country on fire."

The writer criticizes Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi's policy as a failure. He says: "It is very easy for the Interior Ministry to justify its failure, to accuse the Muslim Brotherhood of being behind terrorism. And it is easy for the Interior Ministry to justify its failure, to accuse 'Adil Husayn of being behind terrorism." He says this will not solve the problem. He asks whether the minister will admit to his failure and resign but soon adds: "History tells us that they [rulers] have almost always been ready to ignite the country to keep their positions of power."

A 1,200-word article by al-Sayyid al-Ghadban on page 10 says 'Adil Husayn has become a symbol of freedom. He says the enemies of freedom and democracy lost their senses as they saw intellectuals and thinkers increasingly determined to defend freedom. "They decided to deal a major blow using the highest level of terrorism and violence and they had to choose the victim carefully, one of the political and intellectual giants known for his courage against corruption and for criticizing the wrong practices of the regime."

A 2,000-word article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar on page 10 expresses surprise that Husayn has been detained at this particular time, when, he says, the domestic front needs to be strengthened to support the country in its new confrontation with Israel and the United States over the nuclear issue.

A 1,500-word article by D. Layla 'Anan on page 2 urges the opposition parties to unite to save their skin after the arrest of the Labor Party secretary general. The writer suggests the silence of the opposition parties will tempt the government to treat them as it treated the Labor Party.

On page 3 Mahmud Bakri writes a 1,700-word report in which he says the arrest of 'Adil Husayn was a response to a plan by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which he calls for efforts to stop anti-Israel media campaigns in the Arab world to facilitate peace between Israel and the Arabs. The writer refers to a "pro-Zionist lobby in Egypt, very close to the government, tasked with breaking free pens."

A 1,000-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 3 cites 'Adil Husayn as refuting claims by the prison commander that he is being poisoned in good conditions.

Husayn reportedly told the prosecution of his "humiliating and exhausting" conditions in prison.

Brief unattributed reports on page 1 speak of conferences of solidarity with 'Adil Husayn in various Egyptian cities and of the denunciation of the arrest by professional associations and by the Arab Youth League in the United States.

An unattributed 1,200-word article on page 3 speaks of "a volcano of anger" in the Journalists Association over the arrest of Husayn. Several journalists are continuing a hunger strike to protest the arrest and some were taken to hospital after their health deteriorated.

An unattributed 250-word report on pages 1 and 6 cites a statement by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine expressing solidarity with 'Adil Husayn and calling for his release. The statement praises Husayn as "an Arab and Islamic intellectual" who calls for freeing the Arab will from foreign domination. The arrest of Husayn, the statement says, "is not a legal practice, but a form of violence and terrorism, which the Egyptian authorities have been practicing for some time against our people in Egypt."

On page 2 the paper publishes several articles appearing in other Egyptian papers, including one by Salamah Ahmad Salamah in the government newspaper AL-AHRAM, condemning the arrest of 'Adil Husayn. In his article, Salamah criticizes an Interior Ministry statement attacking writers and thinkers who criticized Husayn's arrest. He says: "It seems that the concept of human rights and preserving political rights is still vague in the minds of some of those responsible for security in Egypt."

On its back page the paper publishes a large picture of 'Adil Husayn under which the names of 200 public figures are given as signatories to a statement calling for the release of Husayn and saying his detention is "a flagrant violation of the democratic experience and party pluralism."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD DEFENDED AGAINST TERRORISM CHARGES

A 1,500-word article on page 5, in that part of the paper usually devoted to Muslim Brotherhood officials, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Salim Jibarah reacts to accusations by Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi that the Muslim Brotherhood group helps terrorism and uses religion as a cover to seize power in Arab and Islamic countries. The writer mentions "known, crystal clear facts" about the Brotherhood to refute these accusations. He says the Brotherhood has proved in word and deed that "it is a group of Muslims calling on people to adhere to the values of Islam and its ethics, to live under the shadow of the tolerant Islamic shari'ah, and to seek to spread and strengthen the bonds of love and brotherhood among people for the happiness and wellbeing of humanity." In this effort, he says, the group uses good preaching and peaceful counselling. He says the

Muslim Brothers "did not brandish their arms in the face of people" nor did they apply pressure or pass judgments against people. Out of this, he adds: "The Muslim Brotherhood members condemned terrorism in every shape and form and in all its sources and continues to emphasize the need for a dialogue based on argument, proof, and logic." He claims the group also confronted extremist thought and stressed Islam's moderation and justice.

Seeing "many restrictions and obstacles" preventing the Brotherhood from performing its religious duty of calling people to Islam, the writer says the group "still uses every legitimate method and legal means to remove these obstacles and lift these restrictions. There is no proof that it resorted to any method relating to violence and terrorism." The writer then stresses the Brotherhood's belief in democracy and its respect for opposing views. He says the group stressed man's right to freedom, security, and a dignified life "and his right to expression, choice, and calling the government to account through freely elected parliaments." The group also believes in "genuine political pluralism, which means people's right to establish their parties and their right to publish their newspapers."

The writer expresses astonishment at the accusation that the Brotherhood seeks to seize power in Muslim countries. He says the group has frequently rejected offers to participate in government "because it does not seek power; power is not its objective; its objective is to gain God's acceptance." He concludes that the Brotherhood will always believe "that unleashing freedoms, abolishing extraordinary laws, and allowing all parties and forces to participate in finding the right solutions to national issues, including security, thought, education, and the economy, is the objective and guaranteed way to find the right medicine."

PREACHER AL-GHAZALI SAYS ENEMIES DETERMINED TO 'KILL' ISLAM

In his 350-word column on page 10, Islamic Preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says: Egypt, like other Islamic countries, is "plagued" by manmade laws that replaced Islamic shari'ah. He says: "World colonialism decided that the shari'ah must disappear as a start to finishing off all Islam in every field. Colonialism has long been implementing this. We are continuing our resistance and do not know what the future will bring." Al-Ghazali then cites an incident in which a man savagely killed his mother and the court, applying French law, sentenced him only to life imprisonment instead of passing the death sentence as stipulated by Islamic shari'ah. He says Muslims should go back to the origins of their religion and concludes: "The enemies of Islam are determined to kill it. We are determined to defend it."

POLITICIANS, PUBLIC FIGURES FORM ANTI-ISRAEL POPULAR MOVEMENT

The paper publishes on page 6 an approximately 700-word boxed "call" signed by some 200 politicians, trade

unionists, artists, university professors, and other public figures urging the establishment of a popular movement to resist Zionism and boycott Israel.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 13 Jan
NC2101181395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 13 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Haykal Criticizes Arrest of 'Adil Husayn
2. 'Arafat Meets Muslim Brotherhood Leaders
3. Amnesty, Figures, Seminars View 'Adil Husayn's Arrest
4. Islamic Students at Cairo University Arrested

HAYKAL CRITICIZES ARREST OF 'ADIL HUSAYN

Like all recent issues of AL-SHA'B since the arrest of 'Adil Husayn, Labor Party secretary general and journalist, this issue is dominated by articles, reports, statements of denunciation, and calls for his release. In an approximately 1,000-word letter published on page 1 from Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, former AL-AHRAM chief editor and prominent writer and journalist, to Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, he says that the first thing he did after his return to Cairo from a recent tour of the Arab world was to write this letter. He says that he feels deep sympathy with Husayn over the measures taken against him. He contends that these measures are "serious and run counter to the spirit, letter, and philosophy of the law, and freedom of the press." He says that it is also a "worrisome" indication of a logic that might lead the country to a situation that no one who cares for Egypt wants. Haykal argues that the charge about the leaflets that were said to have been left in the airliner seat where Husayn was sitting is feeble. He says that the action taken against Husayn indicates a premeditated desire for revenge rather than respect for the law. He underlines that personal revenge is the worst measure that any authority could take. He stresses that he was very disturbed by reports that the Defense Ministry Secretariat accused Husayn of divulging military secrets. He says that this issue was "unnecessary and not useful." He maintains that he does not think that Husayn divulged military secrets and what he said about the Ra's Banas base has often been reported. He points out that in view of the official denial that there is a U.S. base, he thought it was a mere rumor. He notes, however, that describing the information as a "military secret suggests that the report is true." He contends that this is "more serious" than the whole issue of the arrest of 'Adil Husayn.

Haykal argues that there are two basic guarantees for national action in the next stage: The first guarantee is

that law and its tools must be above any differences of opinion or political animosity and, the second is that no one, no matter who he is, has a right to involve a party that has to do with the armed forces in any issue connected with the domestic policy or political party issues. He states that this issue is greater than 'Adil Husayn and the Labor Party or any organization in Egypt because it concerns the future of the country under these pressing circumstances.

'ARAFAT MEETS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADERS

A 130-word report on page 1 notes that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with Muslim Brotherhood leaders during his latest visit to Cairo.

AMNESTY, FIGURES, SEMINARS VIEW ARREST OF 'ADIL HUSAYN

A 200-word report on page 1 and 6 notes that Amnesty International issued a statement calling for urgent action to save 'Adil Husayn. It expresses deep concern over his continuing detention. Describing him as a "prisoner of conscience and views," the organization highlights the fabricated details under which he was detained.

A 250-word report on page 1 says that Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Husayn visited the journalists on hunger strike in hospital. The journalists stressed that they will continue their hunger strike until Husayn is released. In a brief statement to the journalists, Shukri, among other things, calls on the government to make sure that the next elections will bring about real change and really represent the people.

An approximately 3,000-word report on pages 1 and 3 prepared by Khalid Yunus says that the journalists staging a sit-in and leaders of professional and labor associations held a massive conference at the Journalists Association headquarters to protest the continued detention of 'Adil Husayn and to demand his release. The report notes that representatives of the various associations attended. The conference called for the prompt and unconditional release of Husayn and the abolition of the emergency law and all laws restricting freedoms. It called for sending a memorandum on the excesses of the security agencies to President Mubarak and human rights organizations. The conference calls on the Journalists Association to file a suit against the public prosecutor for resorting to detention of journalists. The report also notes that the security forces surrounded the Journalists Association headquarters and that after the conference concluded its work dozens of participants came out into the streets shouting slogans denouncing the detention of Husayn and the "agents of Zionism and subservience to the United States." Various participants are cited hailing Husayn's patriotic stands and his exposure of corruption and repression, and denouncing the arbitrary measures taken against him.

A 900-word report by Jamal Imbabi on page 2 says that the Labor Party secretariat in al-Duqqi, Cairo, held a seminar on 10 January attended by party leader Ibrahim Shukri and other party figures and members. Addressing the seminar, Shukri says that there is an "onslaught" against the Labor Party, that the detention of 'Adil Husayn will only strengthen him, and that the party will continue to raise the motto "Islam is the solution." Shukri notes that the security agencies had been monitoring all Husayn's movements, noting that he has invigorated the party and maintained his staunch stand in defense of Islamic issues throughout the world. He notes that Husayn attended a symposium on Islam in Malaysia. Touching on the next elections, he stresses the need for guarantees for free elections, noting that the government "insisted on rigging" the previous elections.

Shaykh Hazim Salah Abu-Isma'il said at the symposium that Husayn was arrested because of his position on the United States, noting that since the 1970's we have heard about a red line relating to ties with the Americans and that anyone who crossed it would be struck.

A 700-word article by Tal'at Muslim on page 4 says that the arrest of 'Adil Husayn is "part of a serious process that has been going on for years." It is part of an attempt to "freeze" the state of affairs in Egypt so that those in office will remain in power for years to come. He notes in this respect that certain cabinet ministers have held their posts for many years, in some cases as many as 15, and that leading judiciary men and heads of press establishments and chief editors have also kept their posts for many years. He states that mayors and deans of colleges are now appointed to their posts. The goal is to leave the main posts in the cabinet and major executive posts in the hands of particular individuals until the end of the presidential term or beyond. Perhaps, he says, the "blatant rigging" of the previous elections is another indication of the authorities insistence on keeping the current state of affairs. He says Husayn may not be wanted for his person but for the principles of the Labor Party which he elucidates and advocates.

In a 1,000-word article on page 5 in defense of 'Adil Husayn entitled "Yes, There Are U.S. Bases in Sinai in Accordance With the Peace Treaty" by Dr. Al-Shafi'i Bashir, professor of law and head of the International Law Department at the Law College in al-Mansurah University, he says that the accusation leveled at 'Adil Husayn by the Defense Ministry is not founded on solid ground. What Husayn said about the existence of U.S. forces in Sinai is considered to be a "recognition of a status quo," according to the "so-called" Peace Treaty signed between Egypt and Israel on 26 March 1979. He claims that Israel and the United States had planned to replace the Israeli forces with U.S. forces at the approaches to the Gulf of Aqaba and in northeast Sinai. He says that since this plan would expose the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance, and by virtue of their desire for a U.S. foothold in Sinai, they included in the text of Article 4 of the Peace Treaty the need for the presence of

UN forces in specific areas in Sinai. He claims that the United States and Israel were aware in advance that this provision would not be implemented because of Soviet Union opposition. He argues that since it was impossible for the Security Council to pass a resolution forming UN forces for deployment in Sinai, Appendix 1 of the Peace Treaty provided that Egypt and Israel accept the alternative proposed by the United States. He says of course the prepared plan was designed to have U.S. forces replace the UN forces. "To shroud the U.S.-Israeli plan with a deceptive cover," he says, the proposed forces were called the Multinational Forces. He claims that Israel and the United States had planned for this before the peace treaty was signed between Egypt and Israel and before the strategic alliance document was signed by the Israeli foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state on the same day on 26 March, 1979.

ISLAMIC STUDENTS AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY ARRESTED

A 150-word report on page 6 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad claims that the State Intelligence Department arrested six Islamic fundamentalist students in the Cairo University law college. He notes that a crisis erupted a few days earlier between the college administration and the students over the organization of a seminar during which a video on the Palestinian issue would be shown. He says that after the students succeeded in organizing the seminar, the college dean made a decision to dismiss the students, who were later arrested by the security intelligence service. He claims that the dean also issued instructions freezing the activity of the students federation in which the Islamic students won the elections. He says the students staged a demonstration denouncing the dismissal and called on the president of the university to reinstate the dismissed students.

Palestinian Affairs

PA Official: Rabin Took 'Right Direction' in Address

TA2401065795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] members listened closely to the prime minister's televised address last night and were pleased and relieved to hear that Prime Minister Rabin did not announce that the suspension of the negotiations. Sufyan Abu-Zayidah says that the disputed points mentioned in Rabin's speech can be settled through negotiations. Our correspondent Dani Zaquen spoke with Abu-Zayidah:

[Begin recording] [Zaquen] The PA leadership had feared that the dramatic preparations for the address and the fact that it was to be relayed live by Israeli media indicated that Rabin would announce that he is suspending the talks because of the Bet Lit attack. Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, the person in charge of the Israeli desk in

Nabil Sha'th's office, noted the positive aspects in Rabin's address from the Palestinian point of view, including the separation of the nations.

[Abu-Zayidah] He took the right direction by not deciding to stop or suspend the talks. I also accept his stand on the issue of separation. To my regret, I believe that eventually there will be no other choice but to separate the two peoples.

[Zaqen] Abu-Zayidah suggests cutting the interim period short and expediting the permanent arrangement in response to the terror attacks. The prime minister's remarks on an eternally united Jerusalem, the Jordan Rift Valley, and the nonreturn to the 1967 borders do not worry Abu-Zayidah.

[Abu-Zayidah] I believe we can reach a compromise on the issues of Jerusalem and Israel's borders through negotiations.

[Zaqen] Abu-Zayidah stressed that the PA is doing everything it can to prevent terror attacks and, he says, the Palestinian police have scored several successes in this area. Israel's hands are not tied in the war on terrorism, he said, mentioning the killing of Hani al-'Abid, an Islamic Jihad leader, attributed to the Shin Bet.

It was a positive speech, the Palestinians are saying, adding that, from their point of view, they are willing to continue the negotiations as if the attack never happened. [end recording]

'Arafat Ignores Calls To Send Police After Islamic Jihad

NC2301175995 Paris AFP in English 1617 GMT
23 Jan 95

[By Nejla Sammakia]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Jan 23 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat turned a deaf ear Monday [23 January] to Israeli calls for a crackdown on Islamic militants following a double bombing that killed 19 people.

The radical Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for the attack near the coastal city of Netanya saying the two suicide bombers were from the Gaza Strip.

But 'Arafat did not send police to raid homes and search for fundamentalist leaders as he did after previous bombings which killed Israelis.

"It's not an issue of flexing muscles," said Nabil Sha'th, senior negotiator and "minister" of planning in Arafat's self-rule authority.

"The issue is that whoever is responsible should be taken to task, and whoever shows involvement should be punished," he said when asked what steps the self-rule Authority would take.

"It's not a matter of showing off for two or three days, as I fear is sometimes the case, that solution is temporary."

Government spokesman Uri Dromi told AFP: "We have decided to intensify the manhunt for terrorists. We'll demand the Palestinian Authority cooperate.

"We'll give them a list of names. We will demand that these people be extradited to Israel or sentenced in Gaza. Our attitude is very serious."

But fundamentalist leaders seemed confident after Sunday's attack that the Palestinian Authority would not take hard measures against them, despite repeated Israeli calls for action.

"I don't think they will crack down," said Islamic Jihad leader 'Abdallah al-Shami. "The operation was carried out in Israel, not here.

"The Palestinian Authority did order arrests before, but that was at the beginning, when they lacked experience."

Following weeks of arrests last fall, simmering discontent spilled over in November into the worst violence between Palestinian police and fundamentalists since the May launch of self-rule, leaving 12 dead and more than 200 wounded.

Police then arrested hundreds of suspected militants and Moslem fundamentalist leaders from both the Islamic Jihad, and the larger Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

The detentions always followed Israeli pressure to rein in activists and almost all were freed in the following weeks.

Opposition groups organized marches and rallies that often turned into violent demonstrations outside Gaza City main jail and government buildings.

Relations between the self-rule Authority and the opposition improved slightly when a reconciliation committee was formed combining representatives of 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction and opposition groups.

But a "neutral" investigation into the November clashes is yet to be carried out.

'Arafat Asks Brotherhood To Help Stop Conflict With Hamas

NC2401105395 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
20 Jan 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] A leading figure from the banned Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo has revealed that Yasir 'Arafat asked the Brotherhood's leadership in Cairo to mediate with Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] to stop the ongoing conflict between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority. The figure said 'Arafat expressed his concern that the confrontation between his supporters and Hamas' supporters will recur. He said: Some Brotherhood members consider Hamas' statement as a rejection of the mediation efforts, while others see it

as Hamas showing some doubts regarding 'Arafat's moves. The Hamas leadership doubts the Palestinian leadership's intentions and believes its moves could be futile. The Brotherhood figure said the Brotherhood in Cairo will play no role, in view of Hamas' current stance. He noted that there is an ideological agreement between Hamas and the Brotherhood, but that the Brotherhood in Cairo wields no organizational authority over Hamas.

Sha'th: Closure, Punishment Will Not Stop Attacks

JN2401075495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 24 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said that stopping [anti-Israel] operations cannot be achieved through fighting the PNA, ordering closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and imposing collective punishment. In a statement to journalists in Gaza last night, Sha'th said: We condemn all acts of violence targeting both Israelis and Palestinians. We always pledge to do our utmost to stop violence against any Palestinian or Israeli. He added: Some people are trying to torpedo the peace process, the release of detainees, and withdrawal from the West Bank.

Sha'th on Repercussions of Steps Against Fundamentalists

TA2401101595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Palestinian Authority [PA] Planning Minister Nabil Sha'th said yesterday that Gazans were appalled by the Bet Lid attack, and the aim of Islamic fundamentalists is to undermine the Palestinian Authority.

"They have set themselves up to destroy this Palestinian national authority and they are doing it by killing Israelis," he said in an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST in his Gaza City office.

But he said the PA is limited in the steps it can take on its own to suppress the violence.

"Once you really start to resist them on the streets, they are willing to kill us, too," Sha'th said.

Sha'th said the way to deal with this problem is to intensify cooperation with Israel, but not by giving the PA the image of "Uncle Toms."

He said it is also necessary for the Israelis to reassess their own way of dealing with security issues, which he described as a strategy of "retaliation and overreaction."

"Retaliation is the typical Israeli strategy that they have used for 40 years," he said. Sha'th said the worst thing

Israel can do is to maintain a long closure, which only harms the innocent and not the perpetrators of violence.

Sha'th stressed that the Palestinian Police should hold more joint patrols with Israel and have better coordination and communications to reduce infiltrations. As an example, he noted the killing of three Palestinian policemen east of the Erez checkpoint earlier this month, which he said was due to a communications failure between the parties.

He said the Palestinian Police needs to be better equipped to deal with investigating and pursuing perpetrators of political violence. Yesterday, the Palestinian Police received a computerized forensic laboratory from Spain, which will enable them to collect and collate evidence such as fingerprints, Sha'th noted. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Warns of 'Explosion' If Israel Not Pressured

NC2401071095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT
23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi has called on the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the peace process, to pressure Israel into abiding by the bases of the American initiative proposed by former U.S. President George Bush in March 1991.

If this does not happen, Qaddumi warned, the region will head toward an explosion and violence will escalate.

He made the statements during a stopover at Cairo Airport tonight en route to Addis Ababa to attend some of the meetings of the OAU foreign ministers. The meetings opened earlier today. He said Israel, by closing the West Bank and Gaza, is imposing collective punishment on the Palestinian people. "This offers conclusive evidence that Israel is not willing to see peace," he said.

Qaddumi added: If Israel wanted peace it would have facilitated the process and committed itself to the principle of land for peace. But the Israeli Government and the extremist parties seek to create the climate and circumstances that help escalate violence and take the peace process off the right path.

On demands by some Israelis to suspend negotiations with the Palestinians following the Netanya attack, Qaddumi said this is also a Palestinian demand because of the intransigent Israeli position, which violates every agreement.

He said he would explain to the African foreign ministers the latest developments in the peace process and would exchange views with them on issues and problems of mutual interest.

Hardline Groups Praise Bet Lid Suicide Bombing

NC2301165695 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT
23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Jan 23 (AFP)—Ten militant Palestinian groups opposed to the peace process

Monday [23 January] praised the bomb attack which killed 19 Israelis, saying it was retaliation for Israeli "crimes" against the Palestinians.

In a joint statement released here, the groups said the "heroic operation is a riposte to the savage repression and crimes which the Zionist occupation forces carry out daily against the Palestinian people."

Islamic Jihad, one of the 10 hardline groups, earlier said two of its members carried out the suicide bombing which killed 18 soldiers and one civilian at Bet Lid crossroads near Netanya Sunday.

The joint statement Monday said the bombing was "part of the legitimate struggle of our people against the occupation of our land."

It added that Israel "must not go unpunished while it carries out killings, surrounds Palestinian camps on Palestinian land and destroys villages in south Lebanon."

In a separate statement, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which is also one of the 10 hardline groups, said the bombing "expresses the determination of our people to pursue the holy war and prove to the whole world that there will be no peace without an end to the occupation and the return of Palestinian rights."

The Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP) are also among the 10 groups opposed to the PLO-Israeli autonomy deal.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat condemned the bombing, which also wounded 65 people, and sent condolences to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

APF Extolls Bet Lid Attack as 'Heroic Operation'

JN2301193595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Jan 95

["Text" of APF political statement on the "martyrdom Netanya operation"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] O sons of our militant Palestinian people: The martyrdom operation carried out by the heroes of Islamic Jihad in Palestine at the Bet Lid junction near the Netanya settlement north of Tel Aviv, which targeted Zionist soldiers and military personnel and caused some 80 casualties among the Zionist troops' ranks, has come in retaliation for the crimes, brutal killings, and oppression perpetrated by the Zionist occupation troops against the Palestinian people on a daily basis. This operation is also a retaliation for the perpetuation of the occupation and the continuation and escalation of settlement activities, particularly in the city of Jerusalem, at the expense of our land and our people's existence. Moreover, it is a response to the plans to liquidate our people's cause and existence through humiliating capitulatory deals, such as the ominous Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements.

This heroic operation comes in the context of the heroic struggle waged by our people for many long years against the Zionist occupation and usurpation of our homeland. This is a legitimate struggle endorsed by all heavenly faiths and international conventions. This operation targeted military personnel affiliated with a racist and oppressive occupation army that has continued to perpetrate massacres, assassinations, and summary killings against our strugglers and various other sectors of our people, including the policemen affiliated with the so-called Palestinian Authority [PA].

The political statement issued by the APF [Alliance of Palestinian Forces] on the martyrdom Netanya operation added: This heroic operation, which rocked and scared the enemy's entity, was hastily condemned by the advocates of the capitulatory scheme, such as 'Arafat and Nabil Sha'th, to appease and placate the enemy. Nonetheless, this operation enjoys the support of all sectors of our people and nation, who view it as a response to the enemy's crimes against our people and nation, and as an affirmation of the ability of this people and nation to retaliate for these crimes with greater vengeance.

The enemy cannot go unpunished when it engages in killings and assassinations; besieges cities, villages, and camps in the Palestinian territories; and shells and destroys villages and towns in southern Lebanon.

This operation also confirms that those renegades who gave in to the enemy, signed humiliating and disgraceful agreements with it, succumbed to its wishes, and accepted its dictates and conditions, only speak for themselves. As for the agreements and deals they strike, they are not binding on the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. Moreover, the agreements they strike will be crushed by the strikes carried out by the resistance men and mujahidin, who epitomize this nation's soul and survival instinct.

The political statement issued by the APF on the martyrdom Netanya operation concluded by saying: The Zionist enemy's use of collective punishment this time, as happened on similar previous occasions, has taken the form of closing the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, laying siege to our people therein, and stepping up the acts of oppression, killing, and other types of punishment against this people. This will only promote the determination of resistance men and mujahidin to deliver painful strikes to the heart of the enemy.

The APF warns the Zionists and the so-called PA and its oppressive organs against harassing or chasing the mujahidin and resistance men in implementation of the directives of their Zionist masters.

Glory and immortality to the martyrs who fell in the Hani 'Abid operation, and to the martyrs of our people and nation.

[Signed] The APF

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Israeli Statements Said for 'Local Consumption'

JN2301200095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1552 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Commentary by Palestine news agency political editor]

[FBIS Translated Text] The measures the Israeli Government announced in the wake of the terrorist operation to step up settlement activities, close the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, suspend the negotiations on the detainees and prisoners, and postpone the opening of the crossing points represent a rash, violent, and terrorist reaction. This places the entire peace process in a critical situation; the future is ambiguous, blurred, and without confidence.

What is more serious is that the president of the State of Israel reacted violently and did not hesitate to call for the suspension of the negotiations, as if the progress we have achieved together on this arduous and rugged road, which represents international will and the will of Palestinians and Israelis, can be turned back and canceled, to be governed by whim and emotional reaction.

We are not here to discuss the regrettable operation that took place yesterday and which was widely denounced by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], with 'Arafat at its head, and by the Palestinian people. We do not want to refer to history as an arbiter, and recall the hundreds of major Israeli terrorist operations in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, in the al-Aqsa Mosque, and, most recently, the massacre of Palestinian police at the Erez checkpoint.

We face a historic peace that we have decided to forge together. Each side must assume its full responsibilities to push this peace ahead, not into the abyss of tension and collapse.

From this premise, the Israeli president's statements, which preceded the emotionally-charged Israeli measures, are irresponsible statements. Likewise, the measure on detainees, settlements, and crossing points are irresponsible. They raise a large question about Israeli procrastination in implementing the arrangements agreed upon concerning the release of the detainees, the transfer of power, withdrawal, and the complete cessation of settlement expansion. Expediting these matters is the best and most useful solution to tackling terrorism on both fronts; this opens the door to hope for the Palestinian people and provides a good opportunity for entrenching the peace option, and enshrining it as a fact that cannot be erased.

The closure, the blocking of roads and crossing points, and the comprehensive siege should not be a game governed by jittery reactions. They shake the Palestinian

economic structure and paralyze trade activities. This fosters tension that will jar the peace process and will confuse the PNA and the Palestinian people and obstruct the road to stability.

Therefore, we hope these will be very temporary measures, or that they are immediately eliminated without any need for reapplying them, no matter what the cause may be.

From this premise, we view the Israeli president's talk as a transient emotional talk that he should not have made. We also consider all the other Israeli statements as statements for local consumption.

Peace requires a will, endurance, patience, and responsibility. Peace is not achievable by empty words, hallucinations, lack of vision, loss of temper, and the absence of discernment.

PFLP-GC Disbands 30% of Fighters With Less Than 8 Years

JN1901184495 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
21-27 Jan 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the financial difficulty facing most Palestinian opposition factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, [PFLP-GC] led by Ahmad Jibril has disbanded 30 percent of its cadres and fighters who have served less than eight years.

At the same time salaries and allowances for families of martyrs and injured have been stopped.

Quray' Reports Rabin Promise To Fence In Settlements

TA2201055095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], who holds the economics portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, says Prime Minister Rabin promised Yasir 'Arafat last week that the government will build fences around West Bank settlements to prevent their expansion. He told Israel Radio that the fences would be set up about 50 meters from the existing housing.

Abu-'Ala' also said the talks due to resume this week between Israel and the PLO on Palestinian elections had been postponed due to the resignation of Israeli delegation head, Brigadier General Gadi Zohar.

Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, told us that the Palestinians would consider any government decision allowing the continuation of settlement activity a violation of the peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Algeria**Belhadj Reportedly Supports Rome Agreement***LD2401093795 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 24 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ali Belhadj, deputy leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], is reportedly in favor of the Rome inter-Algerian political agreement.

According to the Algiers correspondent of the French daily, INFO MATIN, the Algerian Islamist leader reportedly outlined his position in an eight-page letter sent to the press in Algiers on 20 January.

Death Sentences Demanded in Abduction Case*LD2301214395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Thevenot affair trial opened at an Algiers special court this morning. Twelve defendants, including two women, are charged with the abduction of three members of staff of the French Consulate on 23 October 1993. The Thevenot couple and Mr. Freyssier were kidnapped in the garage of the building where they lived. The security forces succeeded in freeing them after a week of investigations. [passage omitted including break in transmission]

We have just heard that the director of public prosecutions called in his speech for the death sentence for seven of the accused, including Ait Mouloud Mohamed, the main defendant. [passage omitted]

Security Services Kill 9 'Terrorists'*LD2301215295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a statement by the security services today, the security forces succeeded in killing nine terrorists between Saturday [21 January] and Sunday in El-Taref and Blida provinces, the capital Algiers, Boumerdes, Constantine, and Jijel. During these operations, the security forces were able to recover a quantity of weapons.

Privatization, Parastatal Restructuring Assessed*LD2201212995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a report assessing the national economy and the policy of industrial restructuring which it presented recently, the Ministry of Industrial Restructuring and Partnership said that the transition to market economy would entrust the state with a new role represented by its contribution to the national production apparatus. Faiza Meshoub reports:

[Begin Meshoub recording] Concerning the state's interference in the economic sphere, the report stressed that the economic sphere would remain in possession of

activities connected with the natural monopolies, regulated by market regulations in a suitable manner. According to the report, this concerned activities carried out directly by the state, or by enterprises under its custody. These were basically represented by the distribution of energy, water, air transport, rail transport, seaport installations, and roads and mines.

As for the sectors to which the state would temporarily continue to contribute, these concerned production activities and the services for which the market did not currently allow their transfer to the private sector. The issue was particularly connected with cement production, due to its role in the housing sector; iron production, automated production, milling, milk industries, production and distribution of pharmaceutical products, importation of grain and foodstuffs; and maritime transport and banks.

The sector abandoned completely by the state for the benefit of the private sector included tourism activities; distribution and retail trade; construction enterprises; companies for transporting passengers by land; goods, services at seaports and airports, and monopolizing importation.

The state's abandonment of monopolies would be extended at a second phase to include other activities, such as agricultural food industries, textile and chemical industries, electric and electronic industries, insurance, and all the activities for producing materials and services which did not require the presence of the state.

The report concluded by saying that the transitional period and the new shape of the public sector should be administered in such a way that would allow for making all conditions of success available for the transition to the market economy. [end recording]

Egypt**Government Cracks Down on Muslim Brotherhood****27 Members Arrested***NC2301155995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jan—Higher State Security Prosecutor Hisham Saraya today ordered the arrest of 27 Muslim Brotherhood members for 15 days pending an investigation. The prosecutor charged them with joining a secret and illegal organization which aims to obstruct the law and constitution, prevent the state's institutions from doing their work, and harm social peace. He also accused them of running a party organization in violation of the law and of forming cells within the various government organizations.

The prosecutor announced the names of the following defendants: Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, Muhammad 'Ali al-'Arish, Ibrahim al-Bayyumi, Husayn Isma'il 'Uthman,

Muhammad 'Abduh 'Ali, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Halim Ibrahim, Muhammad Salamah Abu-al-Makarim, Ibrahim Muhammad Mutawalli, Subayh 'Ali Subayh, Ibrahim Khalil al-Za'farani, Jamal Sa'd Madi, Mahmud Sa'id al-Dib, Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghani, Rizq 'Id al-Rashid Yunus, Muhammad 'Awad 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Jamal 'Abd-al- Nasir Husayn, Yasir Muhammad 'Ali Qasim, Mahmud Mustafa al-Badrawi, Bashir al-'Id Mahmud, Sa'd 'Ismat al-Husayni, Muhammad Basyuni Husayn, Ahmad Mahmud Ibrahim, Muhammad Taha Wahdan, Muhammad Hasan Ibrahim, Ahmad Muhammad Faraj, 'Abd-al-Khaliq Hasan 'Abd-al-Wahhab, and 'Ali 'Izz-al-Din Thabit.

Security Source Explains Arrests

NC2301183895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT
23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—An authoritative Interior Ministry security source said today that the arrest of several members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood [MB] was carried out in implementation of a security plan to apprehend all elements of terrorist and extremist groups, especially groups that finance terrorist elements and leaders and carry out propaganda on their behalf.

The security source said that the State Security Intelligence Department recently monitored and kept a close watch on the secret movements and suspicious contacts of elements who belong to the banned and illegal MB and who aimed to form a secret organization with cells in the various government organs of the republic.

The security source noted that security surveillance operations showed that these leaders and elements intended to form new organizational structures for the MB and to revive its extremist activity.

The security source said surveillance operations also showed that these elements had made plans to strike at the democratic experiment and the multiparty system and to infiltrate political parties by deception in order to circumvent constitutional principles and legal clauses. He added that these elements have exploited some professional associations to implement terrorist plans through the contacts and organizational ties with some extremist elements who have infiltrated these associations.

The source noted that these elements have established extensive channels of communications with the terrorist factions and groups in the governorates and have provided them with material and financial aid under the guise of social solidarity. They have also contacted foreign quarters in order to promote the MB movement and activity inside Egypt.

The source said that on the basis of these security reports backed by material and legal evidence, the higher state security prosecutor issued an order to arrest of all these persons and to search their places of residence. In

implementation of this, the security forces arrested all these elements yesterday and referred them to the prosecutor for investigation.

Brotherhood Calls Arrests 'Unjustified'

NC2301194995 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT
23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, Jan 23 (AFP)—The Egyptian Interior Ministry said Monday [23 January] members of the Muslim Brotherhood arrested at the weekend had funded Islamic militants waging a violent anti-government campaign.

The Muslim Brotherhood said 29 of its members were arrested, including 'Isam al-'Aryan, a senior official of the doctors' trade union and a leader of the fundamentalist organisation.

The Interior Ministry said the arrests were part of an overall plan to detain all those "implicated in providing material, financial and media support for terrorist elements and their leaders." [passage omitted].

The Muslim Brotherhood said the state security services "carried out a campaign of arrests at dawn on Sunday targeting active members who were seized in their homes in several provinces."

Spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi said "these arrests are unjustified."

"Some officials in the security services are trying to convince the government that the Muslim Brotherhood represents a danger. But not a single member of the movement has been sentenced in the trials" of armed Muslim militants.

"I think that through these measures they want to push the young people of our movement into committing acts of violence so as to sully the Brotherhood's image in the run-up to elections" scheduled for later this year, al-Hudaybi added.

A joint statement issued by Egyptian trade unions Monday condemned the arrests.

"We regard this as a new link in the chain of intellectual terrorism against the symbols and leaders of trade union and political action in Egypt," the statement said.

Police Kill 2 'Dangerous Terrorists' in Suhaj

NC2201172295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT
22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Suhaj, 22 Jan (MENA)—Two dangerous terrorists were killed today in a clash with security forces in a village in the Suhaj Governorate in Upper Egypt.

Surveillance by the state security services indicated that terrorist Mahmud Sayyid Salim was a dangerous active

terrorist, whose name was linked to fugitive terrorist Rif'at Zaydan, who is responsible for recent terrorist operations.

The other slain terrorist was Khalid Bakhit, who was considered a successor to terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hamman, who was killed last year.

Al-Alfi: No Political Prisoners Being Held

NC2401070895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT
24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that occasional isolated terrorist incidents pose no threat and cause no concern, because there is social peace in the country. He noted that not one incident occurred during any of the 130 international conferences held recently in Egypt.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today the interior minister commended the people for standing alongside the police against terrorism. He called on every political, popular, intellectual, religious, cultural, youth, and media agency to work hand in hand to change the atmosphere that might help terrorist groups recruit some youngsters. He pointed out that terrorism in general is an international phenomenon and that violence exists in several countries. He noted that behind terrorism stand international organizations that make plans and provide financing and training for it to strike at the Arab and Islamic nation.

The interior minister strongly denies that there are any political prisoners in Egypt. He stressed that nobody has been or will be detained for his political views, ideas, or tendency.

Gingrich Call, Jerusalem Committee Meeting Discussed

NC2401083695 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 18 Jan 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Jerusalem Treasury and Terrorism Funds"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A U.S. State Department spokeswoman said yesterday that President Clinton's administration believes the Jerusalem issue is very sensitive, therefore it refuses to respond to House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich's call to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. She added: President Clinton believes that no measure should be taken that complicates the current peace negotiations.

This positive U.S. statement coincided with the declaration of resolutions made by the Jerusalem Committee at the conclusion of its meetings in Morocco. The resolutions reaffirmed the Arab and Islamic positions on the issue of occupied Jerusalem as part of the Palestinian territories and the capital of the anticipated Palestinian

state. They also rejected all the Israeli measures, annexation, Judaization, obliteration of its geographical features, attacks on Muslim and Christian holy shrines, or the pursuit of Palestinians living in the city and preventing them from practicing their rights in it. The resolutions also touched on the other known aspects of the Arabs and Muslims' stance on the issue of usurped Jerusalem.

Yet what is new in the resolutions of the Jerusalem Committee, which stemmed from the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], could be summed up in three points:

1. The committee's condemnation of the Israeli Knesset decision of 26 December 1993 banning the Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem from practicing any activities, since this decision is a blow to the last form of official Palestinian presence in the holy city.
2. The agreement to set up a contact group at the level of the permanent envoys to the United Nations. This group, Jerusalem Committee members, will follow up the implementation of the committee's resolutions and the Security Council's resolutions on the city.
3. The most important and most unique resolution in our view is the committee's approval of the proposal by Moroccan King Hassan II, as the chairman of the ICO's seventh summit, to set up "the Holy Jerusalem Treasury" to save the city of Jerusalem, protect the Palestinian right to it, strengthen the steadfastness of its people, and protect the city's cultural religious, and architectural heritage. [passage omitted]

We believe there is a need for quick action to establish the Holy Jerusalem Treasury so that it can become the main benefactor of donations by Muslims. The donations and alms spent by some countries and Islamic charities and societies here and there on financing terrorist actions ought to be sent toward backing the efforts to save Jerusalem, helping its people to stand fast, protecting the city's cultural and religious heritage, and ultimately saving it from the grip of the Israeli occupation. Jerusalem is more deserving of the Muslims' funds than these mercenaries, agents, and saboteurs who are tarnishing the banner of Islam. Establishing the "Holy Jerusalem Treasury" will be a test of all the nongovernmental Islamic societies' seriousness in helping Islam instead of squandering funds on serving terrorism and backing the corrupt on earth.

U.S. Bias Toward Israel Spurs Arab Nuclear Ambitions

NC2401122295 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
20 Jan 95 pp 5-7

[Article by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Israel's Nuclear Bomb and us"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Why must Egypt decline to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and refuse to

renew its compliance with its articles under any circumstances unless Israel signs it too? And why must Egypt and the Arabs cling tight to this last chance before it is too late and before Israel's singlehanded possession of a nuclear deterrent becomes an inescapable fate?

For 25 years, Egypt has been committed to and complied with the Treaty in the hope that this might serve as an incentive for Israel. But Israel held tight to its position of refusing to sign the Treaty so that it might keep its monopoly over a nuclear deterrent. This monopoly offers it opportunities for superiority, hegemony, and the imposition of a fait accompli at the expense of Arab rights. With the change in the atmosphere and circumstances and the comprehensive peace becoming a strategic objective for all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Egypt took its famous initiative in 1990 to establish a new Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction, be they biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

It may be normal to hear from Israel evasive answers that convince no one, but it is not normal to hear from the United States answers that are no less evasive or strange and that are mostly astonishing. These contradictory answers were given by the director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, who insisted that Egypt's signature on extending the Treaty will serve Egypt's security interests but could be a step counter to Israel's national security! Could any sane person understand this conflicting logic? And what is the reason for this double standard? How could we expect, under this flagrant bias, a comprehensive peace that provides mutual security to all the parties, consolidates chances for safe coexistence among the region's peoples, ends decades of fear, suspicion, and mutual anxiety, and opens the door to various regional relations that could give Israel the chance to be accommodated in a new Middle East, where cooperation and equality prevail? [passage omitted]

It is not enough for Israel to announce its intention to sign the Treaty in the near or distant future without giving a specific timeframe. This is because, if Israel really seeks a sound and lasting peace, it is required to open its nuclear stores, sign the Treaty along with Egypt and the Arabs, and enter serious regional negotiations to keep the Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction.

But the responsibility here does not fall on Israel's shoulders alone, for the United States shares much of the responsibility in this regard—for several reasons. If it was justified for the United States to guarantee Israel's military superiority over its Arab neighbors during wartime and conflict under the excuse of ensuring the security of Israel, which lives in the midst of Arab hostility, there is no longer any justification under the current peace efforts for the United States to keep Israel as the sole nuclear power in the Middle East. This is because its unilateral monopoly over a deterrent weapon

tempts Israel to discard the rights of others to equitable security. It was strange for the U.S. secretary of state to announce during his recent visit to the Middle East that Washington is committed to guaranteeing Israel's "qualitative superiority." The U.S. secretary's statement was not fair to Arab rights, because it constituted outright instigation of Israel, encouraging it not to sign the Treaty. Why this U.S. insistence on guaranteeing Israel's "qualitative superiority," which means in reality guaranteeing Israel's monopoly of nuclear weapons? [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, the United States' bias in favor of Israel and its eagerness to maintain Israel's qualitative superiority in this dangerous region, at the expense of the terms of regional peace and security, only spurs the Arabs to become a nuclear power instead of compelling Israel to sign the Treaty. [passage omitted]

AL-AKHBAR Views Bet Lid Suicide Attack

NC2301222395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT
23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR stresses that a halt to the growing bloodshed on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides is in the hands of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He can do it by modifying his position on the peace process and settling his disputes with Syria and Lebanon once he fully understands that the Middle East peace is an integrated whole, the paper says.

In an editorial that will appear in tomorrow's issue, AL-AKHBAR says: We are against any acts that lead to further bloodshed, especially at this stage when the peace process is facing many obstacles, heightening the doubts of the Palestinian youths about Israel's intentions and about the willingness of Rabin and his companions to turn a new page with the Arab world.

The paper says doubts about Rabin's policy, his attempts to interfere in the work of the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho, and his endeavors to establish new settlements are the reasons why some Palestinian young men, especially members of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, are driven to carry out suicide attacks.

AL-AKHBAR says that although it does not support shedding blood on either the Palestinian or the Israeli sides, it cannot exonerate the "suspicious" policy pursued by Rabin's government to drain the peace process of all its essence and turn it into maneuvers and tactics that, on the surface, show a desire to settle the Arab-Israeli disputes but in reality hide a desire to seize most of the occupied Arab territories.

Libya

Chechnya's Dudayev Telephones al-Qadhdhafi

LD2301210395 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Republic of Chechnya, has had a telephone conversation with the brother leader of the revolution, the

leader of the world popular Islamic command, in which he explained the current tragic situation in Chechnya resulting from Moscow's use of brutal force to prevent the Muslim Chechen people from exercising self-determination. President Dudayev explained to the leader that the Republic of Chechnya was like the other former Soviet republics, but there was an international conspiracy to share the oil of the Caspian Sea, and Chechnya was sacrificed for this purpose.

President Dudayev told the brother leader about the destruction of schools, hospitals, and mosques in Chechnya, and the other inhuman acts perpetrated by the Russian forces against the Chechen people, such as the severing of children's limbs, and injuries to eyes and kidneys. Furthermore, Chechens are being driven out of their country, as happened in the past. The Russian forces are now confiscating humanitarian aid arriving in Chechnya, where the real situation is different from what is being described in the Russian press, and more hideous than what is being published in the world press, Dudayev said. He also stressed that the Chechen people are valiantly and courageously confronting the Russians, and offering sacrifices and blood in defense of the sanctity of their land and sovereignty.

During his conversation with the brother leader, President Dudayev made proposals and urged the Arab and Islamic countries and the whole world to adopt them. These proposals may be summed up as follows: a ceasefire, withdrawal of the Russian forces, and a referendum for the Chechen people, under international supervision, on whether they want to stay with Russia or be independent. Apart from that, Dudayev said, war might spread to the Caucasus and the neighboring Islamic states, a war which might go on for decades and in which Russia might use nuclear weapons.

The brother leader of the revolution, the leader of the world popular Islamic command, stressed that from his position in the world popular Islamic command, and out of eagerness to maintain good relations with Moscow and to foster the relationship between Muslims and Orthodox Christians, he will continue his contacts with the Islamic world. In this way he will seek to protect Chechen and other Muslims, prevent a deterioration in the relations between Russia and the Islamic world, and avert the damage that might be done to the relationship between Muslims and Orthodox Christians, who are closer to each other than to other religions.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Popular Leadership, DPRK

LD2301234095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 13 January carries a recording of a 25-minute speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the popular leadership in the Yifrin area. No date is given.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins his address by defining the tasks and responsibilities of the Yifrin popular leadership. He

says that the popular leadership should "mobilize the masses, draw up programs and plans to achieve progress in this area, establish the people's authority as the authority of all the people, and utilize all local capabilities to implement the programs aimed at accomplishing the growth and progress of this area." He goes on to say: "Popular leadership is not a temporary question. It is not an ordinary gathering. It is not merely taking the masses to the streets, accepting the confrontation. Popular leadership is a historic turning point in our lives; it consolidates our people's authority, and we derive confidence from the knowledge that we are leading ourselves, that our affairs are in our own hands, and that we are free in our own free land, able to shape our lives as we wish in accordance with our free will." He declares that, now that popular leadership has become a reality, "the first task for us as a popular leadership is to assemble the experts of the area and ask them to prepare a program for confrontation. By confrontation I mean emerging from the backwardness imposed on us by colonialism and moving toward the progress to which we aspire by revolution."

Al-Qadhdhafi expands on the tasks of the popular leadership and the significance of the people's authority. He stresses the importance of the people, rather than individual leaders; individuals can be replaced, he asserts, and are limited by time and capabilities, but the people continue for ever. Citing examples of nations that depended on single individuals and suffered as a result, he declares:

"At one time Germany relied on Hitler, and when Hitler committed suicide Germany also committed suicide.

"Yesterday North Korea was a stubborn adversary to America. It continued its program of manufacturing its deterrent weapons against America and the American bases on Korean territory in the south. Now, since Kim Il Song died, American penetration of Korea has begun and North Korea has ceased to be a confrontation state against imperialism.

"It is a big deception for the peoples to forget themselves and rely on mortal and temporary individuals."

Al-Qadhdhafi then turns to the invention of the caliphate following the death of Prophet Muhammad. "It did not work. You saw, when 'Abd-al-Nasir died and was replaced by Sadat, what Sadat did. When the prophet died, we got 'Abd-al-Hamid [last Turkish sultan]. The nation must rely on itself and the people rely on themselves."

Japanese Earthquake Termed 'Divine Punishment'

*LD2301144895 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT
23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, A'ina Al-Nar [January] 23—Jamahariyah News Agency—The leader of the revolution made the following statement to JANA about the earthquake which hit parts of Japan. He said: Despite

our sympathy with the innocent and poor victims of the disaster and our great pain for the suffering of thousands of people of this Asian nation, we say this is certainly and undoubtedly a divine punishment.

We were expecting it and we asked God to inflict it on Japan, which manipulated all its economic resources for the use of satan.

He added Japan used to hurry to donate its resources for the benefit of the satanic resolutions of America against nations and against any nation that America decides to suffocate. Japan provided the hanging noose with its money and with its economic resources. Japan was more American than the Americans themselves in the policies of stifling the nations.

Sanctions-Produced Deaths, Losses Enumerated

LD200114495 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The delegation of the Great Jamahiriya to the United Nations has said that the measures imposed by the so-called Security Council on the organization's member states run counter to the development objectives set out by the UN, in view of the harm these measures are causing to the production capability of the targeted countries.

In a statement read out at the meetings of the so-called Security Council, the Great Jamahiriya's delegation says that the unjust measures imposed by the Western countries via this Council aim at serving specific purposes, achieving political goals against the Great Jamahiriya, and causing the greatest harm to the Libyan Arab people, despite the fact that the Great Jamahiriya has not carried out any aggression or any acts which could undermine international peace and security.

The delegation adds: If this is not the aim behind the unjust measures, why have all the Western states rejected the solutions and the initiatives, which are totally compatible with the international conventions and laws, and which the Great Jamahiriya has been asking them to accept since the crisis started?

In its statement, the Great Jamahiriya's delegation talks about the extent of the damage suffered by the Great Jamahiriya as a result of the unjust measures imposed by the Western states via the so-called Security Council. It says that this damage includes the crash of a civilian Libyan aircraft in 1992 and the death of all 157 passengers on board as a result of a shortage in spare parts. It also includes the death of 1,622 people as a result of road accidents, in addition to the death of 350 people, mostly women, children, and elderly people, as a result of their delayed transfer abroad for medical treatment.

The statement also refers to the economic damage, which is estimated at more than \$4,500 billion [as heard], and to the obstruction of requests for exemptions on humanitarian grounds, such as the use of air ambulance.

Mauritania

Protests Over Price Increases Fizzle; Arrests Made

Governor Announces Curfew

LD2301200295 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The governor of Nouakchott has announced that in accordance with Law 003 of 23 January 1995, it has been decided to put into effect a temporary curfew throughout the governorate, starting Monday, 23 January, from 2000 until 0600. Anyone who breaches these measures will be subject to the provisions of the laws in force.

Authorities Reportedly 'in Control'

AB2301172495 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 23 Jan 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Mauritanian authorities appear to be back in control after the weekend's riots over a big hike in bread prices. The price of bread went up by 25 percent but now it seems the protest has fizzled out as Sheik Bekaye reports in this telex from Nouakchott:

Paramilitary police are patrolling the streets of Nouakchott today. The two days of continuous riots finally ended last night and people have returned to work. The streets are littered with burned out cars and other debris, but it is now possible to move freely throughout the whole city. No deaths have been reported.

The govt has broken its silence on the riots. In an official communique read out on national television last night, the government described the riots as contrary to Mauritanian national morals and totally unacceptable, but angry people on the streets were heard to observe this morning that you cannot eat morals. The govt accused unnamed forces of being behind and organizing the riots. This is interpreted as an attack on the opposition UDF [Union of Democratic Forces] party of Ould Daddah.

The UDF also released its own communique yesterday criticizing the economic policies of the government and calling on Mauritanians to defend their basic rights, but the UDF communique made no mention of the riots.

Opposition Party Leaders Arrested

AB2401085595 Paris AFP in French 2050 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dakar, 23 Jan [AFP]—Leaders of two Mauritanian opposition parties were arrested in Nouakchott today, in the wake of street riots over the bread price hike, representatives of the two parties announced. Ahmed Ould Daddah, secretary general of

the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD], and Hamdi Ould Mouknass, secretary general of the Union for Democracy and Progress [UDP], were arrested separately at their party headquarters in the early afternoon, leaders of the two opposition parties told AFP on the line from Nouakchott.

"On the whole, nearly 10 members of the two parties have been arrested and we do not know the reasons for their arrest," a UDP spokesman added. No official information could be obtained from official sources in the Mauritanian capital. The arrests come in the wake of riots by hundreds of students protesting a 25-percent bread price hike in Nouakchott on 21 and 22 January, who ransacked shops and cars with stones and sticks.

Despite a return to calm today, the governor of the capital has imposed a curfew in Nouakchott from 2000 to 0600. Yesterday the government condemned the riots in a communique, and implicitly attributed it to the opposition. The UDP spokesman rejected the accusation, stressing that the opposition condemns "the violence and the destruction" but that the rise in the cost of living is imputable to the government. "The riots broke out spontaneously, outside the political parties' framework," he added. Today, students went to school as usual. Nevertheless, high schools and colleges were placed under military surveillance. Military presence could also be felt in the streets, journalists noted.

The bread price hike followed the introduction of a 5-percent tax on food and a 14-percent tax on industrial goods. According to the government, these taxes which replace two duties, should not be passed on by traders to essential food products.

Further on Opposition Arrests

LD2301203095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mauritanian government has just taken drastic measures to stem the tide of anger in the streets. First, after two days of violent demonstrations against the rise in the price of bread, a curfew has been declared in Nouakchott as of today from 2000 until 0600 in the morning. But the second and strongest indication of the authorities' determination is the arrest of several opposition leaders. Our reporter, Adala Benraad, spoke by telephone to Hamdi Ould Majoub in Nouakchott a few moments ago. Mr Majoub is a lawyer and member of the Union for Democracy and Progress [UDP], one of the main opposition parties.

[Begin recording] [Majoub] This afternoon, the police arrested several political figures, notably from the opposition. They are Mr. Hamdi Ould Mouknass, president of the UDP; and, according to reliable sources, Mr. Ahmed Ould Daddah, secretary general of the Union of Democratic Forces. We have information telling us that the police have, for the past two hours, been looking for a some of the leaders of these two parties. We are unable

to learn why they have been arrested. Of course the city has been the scene of demonstrations since the day before yesterday, as you know.

[Benraad] And the opposition parties had not called for the demonstrations to take place?

[Majoub] No, none of these opposition parties had called for demonstrations, which broke out spontaneously.

[Benraad] Besides the demonstrations, what was the situation like today?

[Majoub] It was rather calm, compared with previous days.

[Benraad] A calm day, yet a curfew has been decreed. What explanation do you have for this?

[Majoub] I don't understand it, because today was more peaceful than yesterday or the day before. So I guess the curfew must be a means for the police to arrest more people. I don't see the reason for it. [end recording]

[Announcer] And I remind you that the curfew will come into force in Nouakchott from 2000 this evening.

Sudan

Customs Official Accuses Egypt of Smuggling

AB2201203895 Paris AFP in English 1903 GMT
21 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Jan 21 (AFP)—Sudan accused Egyptian troops in the disputed territory of Hala'ib, on the Red Sea, Saturday [21 January] of encouraging the smuggling of camels and preventing the passage of goods through Sudanese customs posts.

A regional customs official, Brigadir Mohamed Hajj Dhirar, quoted in the al-Sudan al-Hadith daily, said the Egyptian troops had in the past two months encouraged the smuggling of Sudanese camels and hides into Egypt, while barring the passage of commodities through the Sudanese customs posts on their common border.

Some 800 camels and 150 tonnes of hides had been seized by customs officials in the past six months, along with 300,000 dollars worth of goods such as textiles, perfumes, sugar and motorcars, the daily quoted the head of customs in Khartoum, General Mohamed al-Douma, as saying.

Sudan and Egypt have been at odds over the Hala'ib region since 1958, when they almost fought a war over the issue, and tension in the region resurfaced in 1981 after Khartoum granted petroleum rights in the region to a Canadian country.

Negotiations between the two countries over the issue have so far failed to resolve the dispute.

UN To Investigate Reports of Rebel Aid

EA2301211395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Secretary General of the Council of International People's Friendship, Dr. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, received the resident representative of the United Nations in Sudan, Mr. Christopher (Geiger).

The UN representative tackled during the meeting the role being played by nongovernmental organizations in Sudan. Stressing the neutrality of the international organizations, he said that he would investigate accusations recently made by the mass media about involvement of the UN-sponsored Operation Lifeline Sudan in supplying the outlaws movement with arms. [passage omitted]

'Legitimate Command' Reaffirms Opposition

MM2301111495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jan 95 p4

[Report by Zayn al-'Abidin Ahmad: "Sudanese Military 'Legitimate Command' Reaffirms Adherence to Opposition Grouping"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces [LCSAF] has denied being a party to any agreement outside the framework of the National Democratic Grouping [NDG], its charters, and its program inside Sudan and abroad. In a statement issued yesterday in Cairo, it said it would welcome a solution to the Sudanese problem with the help of fraternal and friendly states and regional and international organizations provided it does not undermine Sudan's sovereignty or unity, maintains regional and international balances, and respects the interests of the neighboring states.

The statement reaffirmed that the LCSAF remains a genuine and effective partner in the NDG and remains committed to all the charters, aims, and programs agreed upon. It emphasized support for the fundamental role played by the patriotic parties and emergent forces including trade unions, professional unions, farmers, and patriotic intellectuals seeking change and rebuilding of Sudan on democratic pluralistic foundations.

The statement added: "The LCSAF will continue to insist, most strongly, on the unity of the Sudanese people and territory just as it insists on the national character of the armed forces and their firm and expected role in promoting stability and security in the country and in defending the democratic option sought by the Sudanese people represented by their parties, unions, and all other national factions."

Governor: Around 100 Rebels Surrender Every Day

EA2001164395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Azaya Bol [Reiti], governor of Western Equatoria State, has said that about 500 returnees from the rebel movement arrived in the state in the last two days from the areas of Mundiri, (Loi), and Tiri. They were received in the areas of Terakeka, Amadi, and Tali. He added in a statement to the radio correspondent that there was an increase in the number of returnees, the daily average being 100 returnees. He said that the efforts of achieving peace from within had been remarkably successful in a record time. He said that currently 16 peace villages were being put up to receive the returnees and provide shelter for them in addition to providing them with urgent and essential services. They are suffering from malnutrition and are in need of clothes.

He said that the returnees had said that there were thousands on their way to surrender after they had become convinced about the uselessness of the war imposed on them. The rebel movement was trading in their names and had pawned its decisions to foreign powers which did not want peace for the country [sentence as heard]. Maj. Gen. Azaya Bol talking to our correspondent about the situation in the state added that there was an increasing wish among the citizens to join the popular defense camps and contribute to the development projects in the state.

National Television Receives 8 New Transmitters

EA2001190295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sudan National Television Corporation received eight new transmitters for installation in Malakal, Juba, Kadugli, al Fulah, Kassala, Dongola, Buram, and Duwaym today.

Director general of Sudan National Television, Mr. al-Tayyib Mustafa, says the new transmitters will replace the older ones while that at Duwaym will be installed within the next two days to be inaugurated when President al-Bashir visits Duwaym within the next few days. The installations of the new equipment comes within the corporation's policies to [word indistinct] all former equipments run by the telecommunications corporation. He urged all walis [governors] and commissioners to cooperate with the television corporation in its effort to cover all regions. The engineering administration is conceiving plans to make every state capital and provinces locally receive nationwide transmission and programs of the national corporation all over the Sudan.

Azerbaijan Prepared To Aid Oil Exploration

*EA2201154895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of the talks between Sudan and Azerbaijan on economic and trade cooperation were signed yesterday at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The minister of industry and commerce, Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, signed on behalf of Sudan while Miri Gambarov, the Azerbaijani trade minister, signed for his country.

The Azerbaijani side expressed the readiness to meet Sudan's urgent needs in terms of equipment and tools for

use in the oil sector, as well as to provide experts to help Sudan in oil extraction.

Both sides stressed the need for the special technical committee to meet in order to study these subjects before the president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, visits Azerbaijan.

After the signing of the minutes, Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa stressed that the government and people of Sudan were eager to develop and continue relations with Azerbaijan in the mutual interest of the two countries. The Azerbaijani side praised the developing relations between Sudan and Azerbaijan.

Bahrain

Amir Blames 'Foreign Circles' for Recent Incidents

MM2401125095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p1

[Report on interview with Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah by Chief Editor 'Uthman al-'Umayr and Editorial Director Wafa'i Diyab in Manama on 23 January: "The Amir of Bahrain Blames Foreign Circles for Incidents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday reflects much bitterness and pain regarding the recent painful incidents, but bitter as they were, his words have not changed his optimism, tolerance, or love. That is why he says: "We in Bahrain only want the truth. We have nothing to hide."

In his office at government headquarters in the center of Manama from where he follows the affairs of the state, Shaykh 'Isa received AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's Chief Editor 'Uthman al-'Umayr and Editorial Director Wafa'i Diyab in the presence of Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin Salman Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin Khalifah Al Khalifah, Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyid, and other ministers and officials.

He said: "Foreign circles known to us all were behind the painful incidents which occurred in Bahrain. But, regrettably, it is not just us. Foreign circles are also the instigators of regrettable incidents occurring in some Arab states such as Algeria, Egypt, and others, as if the aim is to deny this region calm and stability."

He added: "Some neighboring states are interfering in our affairs. The fact that we cannot change or choose our neighbors does not mean that we accept their interference in our internal affairs. That is something we do not at all tolerate."

In addition to his bitterness about the interference of others in Bahrain's affairs, Shaykh 'Isa expressed bitterness about "the media which misrepresent matters." He said: "It is very painful for us to hear news we know perfectly well to be untrue and meant to cause confusion and anarchy and to undermine the family spirit. It is strange because the truth is quite the opposite."

He added: "A correspondent's mission is a very serious matter because if he aligns himself with one side against another, he would be helping to create a big problem."

Shaykh 'Isa praised the Gulf Cooperation Council states and the cooperation between them in all fields. He said: "They are joined together by common objectives, interests, and aspirations."

He stressed finally that the security situation in Bahrain is stable, contrary to the claims of some news agencies and radios.

He said: "The situation is under full control and life is proceeding normally everywhere."

The amir of Bahrain yesterday sponsored the Bahraini Red Crescent Society's celebration of its silver jubilee and distributed certificates of merit to over 300 people, from Bahrain and the Gulf, who have contributed to the work and humane activities of the society. The celebration was part of the fairs, seminars, and conferences simultaneously being held in Bahrain currently.

Lebanese Hizballah Figure Said Behind Incidents

MM2301091695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jan 95 ppl, 4

[Report by Wafa'i Diyab: "A Hizballah Leader Behind Bahrain Incidents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama—Informed sources in Manama yesterday revealed that the main activator of the recent incidents in Bahrain was not 'Ali Salman, who has sought political asylum in Britain, but Muhammad 'Ali al-Mahfuz, secretary general of the so-called Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain [IFLB].

The sources said that al-Mahfuz has been in Lebanon for some time and that he is an active leading figure who operates through one of Hizballah's bases. They added that most of the statements and leaflets inciting violence reach Manama by fax from Beirut, from al-Mahfuz himself to be specific. He also sends them to Western news agencies.

According to government sources, al-Mahfuz was arrested during the 1981 incidents in Bahrain along with a large number of his colleagues including Salman. He then took refuge in Iran where he stayed for a long time, then went to Damascus but the Syrian authorities deported him and he finally settled in Beirut from where he triggered the recent incidents.

The same sources say that 'Ali Salman went to Iran after 1981 when he was 14 years old and only returned to Manama last year after he was pardoned by the Bahraini authorities.

The sources add that a number of others who were arrested in these incidents and then released moved to Lebanon, Iran, Britain and some other countries. They currently channel their activities through a unified command which is in Beirut and directly linked to Hizballah.

Official sources emphasize that the recent measures taken by the Bahraini authorities, including the release of a large number of detainees and the deportation of others, have greatly reduced the tension and helped contain any possible escalation by those who participated in the gatherings and demonstrations. They add that delegations from the villages and areas which were

the scene of the recent gatherings and demonstrations, yesterday conveyed to the Bahraini Government their satisfaction with the firm decisions it made, regarding these decisions as measures that "will protect people's lives and property."

Contrary to what used to happen on Thursdays—Thursday being a holiday—no incidents were reported in remote areas yesterday. Some of the additional security measures introduced recently have been canceled, increasing confidence in a return to normality.

According to diplomatic sources, some of the embassies which had urged their nationals to be alert and cautious have begun talking about the stability of the security situation in Bahrain, describing the recent incidents as "passing incidents that will have no significant internal complications."

Meanwhile, Manama has so far received no official contacts from London regarding the case of 'Ali Salman and whether the British authorities intended to grant the request for political asylum he made on arrival in London.

According to official sources in Bahrain, Salman is trying as much as possible to remain silent so that whatever statements he might want to make would not influence the British Government's decision regarding the asylum request. The sources stressed that Salman "is a terrorist not an opposition leader as claimed by some media." The same sources added that 29-year-old Salman was deported from Bahrain "only because he was convicted in connection with the riots and subversive actions, and for instigating others to commit such acts with intent to harm public interests."

Opposition Leader on Deportation, Other Issues

NC2401102595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 21 Jan 95
p 13

[Interview with opposition leader Shaykh 'Ali Salman al-Biladi by unidentified correspondent in London following al-Biladi's deportation from Bahrain; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SAFIR] What is the nature of the formula that allowed your release from jail and deportation?

[Al-Biladi] The goal of jailing me, issuing summons, and various forms of harassment was to prevent me from continuing my work, demanding legitimate rights for the people. This approach, particularly putting me in jail, has backfired. Jailing me had a great effect on kindling the feelings of anger among the people, injecting in them a zealous spirit and insistence on demanding the legitimate rights that I have demanded. They added to their demands a call for my release along with all the detainees. This prompted the authorities to confront the people with the most severe form of repression, causing people to fall martyr to the confrontation. This action by

the authorities clearly showed the extent of the injustice to our struggling people. This placed the government in an embarrassing position as a result of domestic and external pressure, prompting it to find a way to reduce the pressure. So it resorted to deportation. The authorities are blamed for this behavior. This measure was not a result of an agreement between the deportees and the authorities, but a repressive measure that I pray to God will have good results.

[AL-SAFIR] Was there any external pressure behind the Bahraini authorities' decision to deport you?

[Al-Biladi] The greatest impact was caused by the domestic pressure generated by the various segments of the nation—the ulama and lawyers—and pressure from the noble nation inside and outside Bahrain. The external pressure and demands by organizations concerned with human rights and others contributed to this result.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the truth of reports that the Bahraini authorities released some detainees and arrested others at the same time?

[Al-Biladi] The detention was largely characterized as indiscriminate, even including workers in the municipality. This type of detention, involving various segments of society, is usually followed by a process of sorting out the detainees and the release of a few. Arbitrary detention is continuing.

[AL-SAFIR] How many detainees are there in jail? Can they be classified according to their political affiliation or district?

[Al-Biladi] Initial estimates from informed sources indicate that there are approximately 2,000 detainees, detained after recent events. They all demanded their legitimate rights peacefully according to the Constitution so they can be considered prisoners with an opinion. The regime's jails have not been empty of strugglers demanding their legitimate rights for over four decades. These detainees come from various parts of the country.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the current situation in Bahrain?

[Al-Biladi] The people are not participating in running their political affairs. There is no popular representation in Bahraini Government agencies and there is no room for political activity by any party but the government. All parties of all types are banned, labor unions are banned, and the only press is official. To mention politics is punishable in Bahrain. As for security, there has been a constant state of emergency beginning with the events of 1954-1955; through the events of 1965, 1971, 1972, and 1975 following the abolition of the parliament; the events of 1981; and on, to other events. We are living under emergency measures in our day to day affairs. Detention, questioning, physical and psychological torture, eviction, and other types of terrorism against citizens continue uninterrupted. The security situation could be assessed in detail by following up the statements

issued by Amnesty International and other world human rights organizations—to discover the ruling regime's violation of every international custom and law in this regard.

As for the economy, while Bahrain belongs to one of the world's richest regions and over 60 years have passed since oil was discovered in Bahrain, there are negative economic indicators. One is that the infrastructure has not been properly completed. In this 600-sq-km country many roads in villages are not paved and others need to be repaved because of repeated and haphazard digging work. The water that reaches all Bahraini homes is not suitable for drinking and all Bahrainis rely on the water treated at private desalination centers, which sell water to people via trucks. Even the undrinkable water that reaches homes is sometimes cut off in many areas from one day to the next. Many areas in the country lack sewers. Electricity consumption last summer reached approximately 950 kW, while total output did not exceed 980 kW, something that kept the electricity sector on maximum alert throughout the summer. The infrastructure is either incomplete in some sectors or eroding in others.

Bahrain's income relies mainly on oil, gas, and taxes. The state has failed to find real alternative sources of national income, though some success was made in the banking sector when Lebanon became absent from the banking scene. But the fate of this sector depends on political tranquility continuing in countries that witness occasional bursts of popular unrest. The ordinary citizen is suffering economically, unlike his counterpart in other Gulf states. Wages have remained the same for approximately 15 years while inflation ranges between 5 and 11 percent annually. Few adults are not in debt. All Bahrainis live on borrowed money to secure a home, transport, and other necessities. The average individual income in Bahrain is approximately 150 Bahraini dinars, around \$400 [timeframe not given].

The overall status of the Bahraini economy does not look promising. The economic crisis is growing every day—so much so that some ministries cut their budget in 1994 by 20 percent. Recruitment in the public sector has stopped and unemployment is rife among the people. The number of jobless reached 25,000 in 1994, in a country in which official statistics say foreign laborers make up 63 percent of the labor force. In reality the deficit in the state budget is increasing, contrary to official statements, which try to give the impression that the budget deficit is decreasing.

[AL-SAFIR] Is Saudi Arabia involved in what is happening in Bahrain? And how?

[Al-Biladi] While stressing the need for good neighborliness and the development of relations among Arab countries, we also stress the need to base these relations on respect for each country's internal situation.

The correct relationship between the people and government will protect security and stability in Bahrain, not

any other security arrangement. We see from the recent past that Kuwait achieved political stability only after a National Assembly (parliament) was established.

[AL-SAFIR] Where do you want your opposition to the regime to go? Do you want it to reach a constitutional formula or topple the regime?

[Al-Biladi] The opposition's declared objectives are very clear. They are the following:

1. The 1972 Constitution should be applied to the ordinary citizen's life.
2. The parliament (National Council) dissolved by the amir in 1975 should be restored.
3. Political prisoners and detainees should be released, especially those detained after recent incidents.
4. A fact-finding committee should be formed to investigate the recent incidents.

[AL-SAFIR] Is Iran involved in events in Bahrain?

[Al-Biladi] Involving the name of Iran in Bahrain's events is an attempt to avoid the purely internal nature of the events, which are the result of the political repression prevailing in the country. It is also used as an excuse for not responding to these public demands. The State of Bahrain persistently covers up internal events by blaming them on other countries.

[AL-SAFIR] What is the level of unity among Bahrain's opposition groups?

[Al-Biladi] The Bahraini opposition, which is demanding the restoration of constitutional action and the National Council (parliament), comprises all the trends in the Bahraini arena. It includes the Sunnis, Shiites, the Islamists, the leftists, the liberals, and other independent figures.

The opposition movement abroad, in all its factions, also agrees with the opposition here on these demands. The petition demanding the council's restoration was signed by around 25,000 people and prepared by all the opposition groups inside and outside the country. Much innocent blood has been shed and the nation has suffered detention, torture, and exile for the sake of the opposition demands, namely, the restoration of the country's parliamentary life and revival of the Constitution. But these demands have not been fulfilled yet. These sacrifices have highlighted the need to continue action through legitimate means until the state responds to our just demands.

Deportees Request UK Asylum; Others Leave for Iran

MM2401091095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p1

[Report by Wafa'i Diyab: "Families of Deportees Take Refuge in Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama—Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the family of 'Ali Salman, who was deported by the Bahraini authorities on the charge of participating in and instigating acts of riot and sabotage, left Bahrain yesterday for Iran.

They added that the families of the two other deportees, Hamzah al-Dir and Haydar al-Satri, also left for Iran in the past two days.

It is not known whether the departure of the families of the three deportees will be final but Bahraini official sources, who confirmed the report, said that they left Bahrain of their own free will.

Salman, al-Diri, and al-Satri are still in London awaiting the British Government's response to their application for political asylum. [passage omitted]

Oman

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives for Brief Visit

JN2301170395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in the Sultanate of Oman this evening on a brief working visit. He will hold talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the brotherly bilateral ties and means of bolstering them in all fields. Discussions will also cover a number of regional and international issues of common interest, as well as latest developments in the Arab region.

Relations, Developments Discussed

JN2401164395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman have held a round of talks in the sultanate. They discussed the existing brotherly relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman, as well as ways of promoting them for the benefit of the two peoples of the two fraternal countries.

The talks also dealt with several regional and international issues of mutual interest, as well as developments in the Arab region. The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin- al-Husayn, His Highness Chief Chamberlain Ra'd Bin-Zayd, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and King's military adviser Humaydi al-Fayiz.

Saudi Arabia

'Fruitful' Progress Reported in Saudi-Yemeni Talks

MM2401091395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Saudi-Yemeni Talks To Achieve Decisive Solutions"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, met at noon yesterday with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, chairman of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, and tribal chief of the Yemeni hashid tribes. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after the meeting Shaykh al-Ahmar affirmed that his meeting with Prince Sultan "was extremely useful and fruitful." He added that the conferees "managed to dot the i's and cross the t's." He also said: "My meeting with Prince Sultan set the pace for our program of action and the task for which we have come to Riyadh"

He added: We have agreed to form two committees or work groups from both sides. They will begin work today (Monday) to prepare and draw up full concepts and views on everything, including preparations and arrangements for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit, the file for the summit between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Salih, all matters related to mending the rift and restoring normal relations between the two countries, and settling all the outstanding problems and differences between them.

Asked if he discussed with Prince Sultan the question of setting a date for President Salih's visit to Saudi Arabia, Shaykh al-Ahmar said that the meeting did not cover the question of setting a date for the visit but it did cover ways of creating the atmosphere for the success of the visit.... He said that the joint work committees from both sides would continue their work and meetings in Riyadh.

He said: We will remain in Riyadh. There is no set time for our stay here. The two sides will continue their meetings until we ensure the success of the mission we have come to Riyadh to accomplish. God willing, we will agree on all that is good for our two countries and peoples.

According to informed sources, the Palace of Conferences in Riyadh will today witness important meetings between the Saudi and Yemeni sides attended by the figures who were present at yesterday's working luncheon. In the light of the results of these meetings, they expect an enlarged meeting under the cochairmanship of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar.

Some sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these meetings include consultations with a view to formulating joint concepts linking the views of the two sides to promote agreement on a concept for the settlement of border disputes. They did not rule out the possibility of "decisive solutions" for the problem of renewing the border demarcation signs according to the 1934 agreement signed in al-Ta'if, as well as demarcation of the borders in the area not covered in the agreement,

from al-Tha'r mountain up to the land borders with the Sultanate of Oman. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Ties

*LD2201105395 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT
22 Jan 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA— Iranian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammad 'Ali Hadi discussed Tehran-Riyadh bilateral relations as well as other matters of mutual interest with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal in a meeting Saturday [22 January].

The two sides exchanged views over bilateral cooperation in the region and in the world of Islam and explored fresh avenues for further expansion of mutual ties.

Earlier, in the course of the recent summit meeting of Islamic countries in Morocco, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Saudi Crown Prince Amir 'Abdallah met and discussed expansion of bilateral ties.

Prince Sultan on 'Brotherly Spirit'

*LD2301203295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its regular weekly meeting this afternoon at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, chaired the meeting.

In a statement to SPA after the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said: His highness the second deputy prime minister started today's meeting with a statement in which he briefed the Council of Ministers on the results of the talks and meetings held so far between a delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by his noble highness, and a delegation of the brotherly Yemeni Republic, led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni Council of Deputies. His highness praised the brotherly spirit which prevailed at the meetings, and expressed his hope that a joint perception of all the issues that concern the two countries would be reached. [passage omitted]

Speaker To Ask Moscow To Help End Embargo*MM2301162695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
21 Jan 95 p 6*

[Report by Jalal al-Mashtah: "Iraqi Parliament Speaker To Visit Moscow by Invitation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow—AL-HAYAH has learned that Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly (parliament), will arrive in Moscow 30 January at the head of a parliamentary delegation in response to an invitation from the Russian Duma.

High-level diplomatic sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Iraqi delegation will make contacts with Russian leaderships to urge them to "reactivate" their role in trying to ease the international embargo imposed on Iraq.

Observers believe that Baghdad is seeking to Russian-French-Chinese cooperation in the Security Council to secure a resolution saying that the period of the long-term inspection of Iraqi armament actually began last October and should end in March, in order to get the embargo reconsidered.

An expert on Middle Eastern affairs has told AL-HAYAH that the Iraqis are hoping for a resolution based on Clause 22 of Resolution 687, hence the abolition of the oil blockade. However, he pointed out that Moscow is not optimistic in this connection, and that it could focus its efforts in another direction, namely working to increase the quantities of oil Iraq is allowed to export. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Criticism' to French Interest Section Viewed*JN2201175595 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 10 Jan 95
p 1*

[Article by Amir al-Hilu: "Developing Positive Attitudes Toward Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and Britain have launched a campaign of criticism of France's decision to open an interest section in Baghdad. The U.S. State Department spokesperson said Washington does not consider France's decision useful and constructive. But France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, announcing the decision, said the United States has a similar section in Baghdad. This proves the United States permits for itself what it denies another big power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and that it pursues a policy of trying to dominate everyone for the sake of its personal interests without any due regard for the sovereignty and interests of other states.

However, the pretexts the U.S. State Department used to justify its position cannot withstand the truth and are not related in any way to the UN Security Council resolutions. The State Department sounds illogical and naive

when it says, for example, that Iraq has failed to cooperate with the UN Special Commission when the monthly report of the commission's chairman says no such thing.

The issue which is now understood by the whole world is that the United States, which is opposed to the UN Security Council adopting any positive attitude toward Iraq, is prompted by its own personal considerations and those of its agents in the region, and in which oil plays a major role. They want to bar Iraq from exercising the natural right of exporting its oil, and possibly flooding the oil market, so that the United States will continue to suck up and deplete Arab funds in the service of its interests.

By maintaining this position, the United States is not only maliciously depriving an entire people of their basic humanitarian and living needs, but also deliberately harming the interests of other states which have old economic and political ties with Iraq and which are interested in restoring these ties and relations for the common benefit. Here we see the importance of the French decision, which opens up prospects for the restoration of normal conditions and supports the international trend that has begun to move tangibly toward lifting the oil embargo on Iraq. It is hoped that the coming UN Security Council review will see a positive and an effective atmosphere based on international law and logic rather than on U.S. fallacies and grudges. It remains for the states with this attitude to adhere to their interests and uphold justice in order to remove the wrong and injustice done to the Iraqi people.

Arabs Urged Not To Sign Nuclear Treaty*JN2001131295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT
20 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 20 Jan (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said that the acknowledgement of Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, will eliminate all justifications for the blockade imposed on Iraq.

In an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ published today, al-Sahhaf said he hoped that the UN Security Council permanent states will be convinced that there are no longer any justifications for the blockade. He further disclosed that the United States committed a mistake during the recent Security Council session on Iraq when the U.S. representative spoke about Kuwaiti military equipment captured by Iraq and demanded that the equipment be returned.

The foreign minister said the United Nations had asked the UN secretary general to form a committee to inventory and return Kuwaiti property in Iraq, saying that this has been done. He added that the secretary general has a personal representative in Baghdad. If this representative has evidence that Iraq still has Kuwaiti equipment, all he has to do is submit a report in this respect. The

foreign minister added: This is not the business of the United States. What happened was only U.S. buffoonery, which has a political purpose.

The foreign minister went on to say that when Baghdad agreed to implement UN resolutions, this was an Iraqi political decision, saying that the problem is not with the resolutions but with the way those UN resolutions are interpreted. He said Iraq adheres to the interpretation given by international law, saying that Washington is trying to impose an abnormal and illegal interpretation of the UN resolutions.

The foreign minister urged the Arab countries to heed the state of weakness being experienced in the Arab region, saying that the Arab countries must adhere to pan-Arab principles to overcome Arab weaknesses.

Commenting on nuclear armament in the region, the foreign minister disclosed that there is a scheme to subject the Arabs to nuclear blackmail, and he wondered why the Arabs are being asked to sign the nuclear arms treaty when they do not possess this option—not even the scientific knowledge—while the Zionist entity, which possesses nuclear weapons, is not asked to sign the treaty. He added that if the Arabs signed this treaty, a treacherous settlement will be imposed on them. He said the Arabs should cling to the principle of military balance. Otherwise, they will remain threatened forever.

The foreign minister stressed that, in line with a unified Arab position, Iraq calls for a region completely free of weapons of mass destruction, provided that the agreement or ban should include all parties. He further urged all Arab states not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which will be reviewed in June, until the Zionist entity signs this treaty.

Commenting on the Jerusalem Committee, which met recently in Morocco, he said: Iraq hopes that the question of Jerusalem will be a major catalyst for the Arabs to heed the dangers that threaten Jerusalem and the rest of the Palestinian and Arab territories.

Saddam Chairs Meeting With 'Aziz, Defense Minister

JN2201174395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over a meeting attended by Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

Revolution Command Council Amends Penal Code

JN1901164295 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 10 of 15 January 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The Republic of Iraq.

In the name of the people,
The Revolution Command Council.

Decree No. 10

Dated: Fourteen Sha'ban 1415 hegira, corresponding to 15 January 1995.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A, Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decided to issue the following Law No. 2 of 1995, amending Penal Law No. 111 of 1969.

Article One:

Article 372 of Penal Law No. 111 of 1969 shall be nullified and replaced by the following:

Article 372:

First, any person who commits any of the following acts shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding three years:

a. Any person who publicly encroaches on the belief of any religious sect or any site where its rituals are performed.

b. Any person who intentionally disrupts the performance of the rituals of any religious sect or any religious festival or gathering, or any person who intentionally prevents or obstructs the performance of any of such activity.

c. Any person who damages, vandalizes, disfigures, or desecrates any building intended for use in performing the rituals of a religious sect, or any symbol or anything else that has a religious significance.

d. Any person who prints or publishes a sacred book of a religious sect if he intentionally distorts the text in a manner that changes the meaning, or if he belittles any of its laws or teachings.

e. Any person who publicly slanders a symbol or individual who has a sacred, admirable, or respectable status for a certain religious sect.

f. Any person who publicly imitates a ritual or a religious festival in a degrading manner.

Second, any person who publicly slanders the name of God shall be imprisoned for a period not less than one year and not exceeding three years.

Article Two:

This law shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council chairman

Saddam Chairs Joint RCC, Iraq Command Meeting*JN2101151495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1444 GMT
21 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, presided over an Iraq Command meeting today.

Hatim Hamdan al-Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, attended the meeting.

His excellency also chaired a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party.

Hatim Hamdan al-Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, attended the meeting.

Saddam Chairs Fifth Cabinet Session*JN2401080395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has said that equality and justice should not check or hamper ambitions. Our forefathers had realized this rule, without which life will not progress.

His excellency added that the Holy Koran contains many morals that foster this concept among mankind. God says: To all are degrees (or ranks) according to their deeds. [Koranic verse]

Even in gifts or salaries, our forefathers took the degree and rank of men into consideration, which means that their performance was not the same. They used to consider the seniority and performance of men and other aspects which qualify anyone to occupy a certain position in society.

The leader president noted that deviation occurs when some people unrightfully demand that they be accorded the same status of others, when those people do not have the proper qualifications. Deviation also happens when the illegitimate wishes of those people conflict with the rights of others or the rights of society. Thus, those people deviate or rebel under a wrong feeling of injustice.

His excellency added: We should do our best everywhere, at home and in schools, to make our people aware of this balance. This way, we will not lose people and we could prevent their deviation.

His excellency made these remarks when he chaired the fifth session of the Council of Ministers. The Council discussed the issues on its agenda, which included some organizational topics. The leader president asked the cabinet members to make suggestions to set up cooperative societies at their ministries to sell commodities to the ministry personnel. This will alleviate the suffering of the state employees.

'National Bloc' Responsible for Coup Attempt*MM2001130095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
19 Jan 95 p 6*

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Group Claims Responsibility for Attempt To Assassinate Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement signed by the "National Bloc of the Organizations at Home" [al-kutlah al-wataniyah li tanzimat al-dakhil] has said that the bloc is responsible for a recent attempt to overthrow President Saddam Husayn.

The statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has obtained, said that the attempt targeted the "regime's head near al-Ramadi city, where (Saddam) frequents one of his palaces."

The statement pointed out that "Martyr Brigadier [amid] pilot Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi was in charge of a cell inside the Iraqi Air Force. The cell was tasked with implementing an important page of the change program" in Iraq. The statement said that al-Dulaymi "was a distinguished pilot in the Iraq-Iran war and held several posts, most notably commander of an Iraqi air base."

The statement stressed that scores of the sons of al-Anbar Governorate were arrested following the attempted coup. It said that their families have been subjected to "brutal torture campaigns."

The Iranian News Agency last Sunday quoted "Iraqi sources in Amman" as saying that "officers from the Iraqi Air Force" planned the coup attempt "under the leadership of Major General [Iliwa'] Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi," who was killed. It also said that persons opened fire on Saddam during the attempt.

Oppositionist Proposes 'Field Action Arena'*MM2301124695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in
Arabic 20 Jan 95 p5*

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Iraqi Military Commands Willing To Coordinate With Popular Action To Change the Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has stated that the buffer zone between Iraq and Kuwait and the Kurdistan region, which is not under the control of the Iraqi Government, should be turned into "a field action arena in which the Iraqi Army would participate with the aim of seizing power in Iraq." He said that the regional and international powers concerned with Iraqi affairs would not object to such a plan.

Al-Hakim, who has his headquarters in Tehran and has been in the British capital on a visit since last Sunday [15 January], was speaking the night before last at a meeting of over 100 Iraqi opposition figures who discussed "a

program for change in Iraq." Al-Hakim said that the circumstances are suitable for the start of Iraqi opposition action in the northern and southern regions. He revealed that contacts were held "with the Kurds and others. We conducted a field study and concluded that that was possible with joint efforts." He stressed that "the grounds (for such a plan) already exist there" and at regional and international levels.

The plan includes "reactivation of contacts with the Iraqi Army" which, he said, "is willing to respond to the change process" provided it does not "take the form of a quick military coup" but "a gradual large-scale action supported by the Army, like what happened in Romania" when Ceausescu was toppled in 1989. In explaining the provisions of the plan, al-Hakim said that action in coordination with the Army would ensure that "no internal fighting would take place in Iraq in the future."

The plan also calls for the "reactivation of the efforts of all the opposition for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 688 (on guarantee of and respect for human rights in Iraq) and for international pressure on the regime to stop its acts of repression and persecution." The plan proposes that the Iraqi opposition should adopt the sole objective of change and enabling the people to impose their will, without a prior definition of the future form of government, "a matter which should be left to the people to decide."

Opposition Radio Reports Iraqi Army Buildup in North

NC2201164295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from northern Iraq stress that tyrant Saddam massed military forces at the border of Iraqi Kurdistan last week. Most of the troops are deployed near Irbil Governorate. The reports say that tyrant Saddam sent other forces along the Mosul-Faidah road as part of his regime's preparations for military action in the region. Arrivals from Mosul in the past few days say a Republican Guard division is deployed on the road. It should be noted that Iraqi Kurdish parties last week rejected an offer by the Baghdad regime to mediate in the armed conflict between the Kurdistan Democratic Party, lead by Mas'ud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani.

PUK Radio Claims KDP Offensive Defeated

NC2201170495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the morning of 21 January Kurdistan Democratic Party [DKP] forces launched a broad offensive on Sayyid Sadiq, (Nalpares), and (Sanabari) from seven directions. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] forces, lying in wait for the KDP forces, turned this offensive into a miserable military defeat, to the surprise of the DKP

command. The DKP command had pinned great hopes on this offensive to destabilize security in the al-Sulaymaniyah area and to divert the DKP forces.

Scores of DKP fighters were killed or wounded. The PUK forces counted over 20 bodies, victims of the irresponsible policies of the DKP command. The PUK forces also captured 12 DKP fighters and seized over 40 weapons, including machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

In the (Nalpares) area following the smashing of the DKP offensive, the PUK forces chased the remaining DKP forces up to the border with Iran, inflicting further casualties on them. [passage omitted]

Nine Said Killed in Benslawia Inter-Kurdish Clash

NC2301163895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of its continuous defeats, the leadership of capitulation in the Kurdistan Democratic Party has cut the water and power in Irbil and is preventing food trucks from reaching the areas of Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Karkuk. The defeatist leadership also ordered its gunmen to mount a rocket and artillery offensive against the inhabitants of Benslawia in the Irbil governorate. Nine people were killed and 60 others were injured in the bestial attack.

PUK's Talabani Ready To Observe Cease-Fire

NC2301172795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1728 GMT 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has sent a reply cable to a group of Kurdish intellectuals and artists now meeting at the building of the newspaper (ALAY AZADI), who have submitted a plan for a peaceful solution to the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leaderships in a bid to end the infighting in Kurdistan. The text of the cable follows:

Brotherly greetings,

I would like to advise you that the PUK has agreed to implement the following:

1. To cease fighting throughout the Kurdistan region immediately, provided a committee is formed from representatives of the Kurdish parties, parliament, and the Unified Iraqi Congress to supervise the cease-fire;
2. To adopt peaceful and political means to cope with all problems and disputes;
3. To fully abide by the two peace plans of 9 and 13 January;
4. To fully abide by the Paris agreement;
5. To respect the principles of democracy and human rights throughout Kurdistan;

6. To consider collusion with the enemies of Kurdistan, regardless of their affiliation and origin, as high treason; and

7. To implement all the resolutions passed by the parliament concerning the elimination of weapons from the region's towns and the removal of any show of force from the towns. Also, to return the customs revenues to the Kurdistan government's budget and to implement all the decisions passed by the parliament.

Brother and sister intellectuals and artists, it is of utmost importance that you take a stand on the current situation by exposing which side refuses to heed your demands as well as those of the people and parliament.

I wish you all success.

[Signed] Your brother, Jalal Talabani

Kurdish Fighting Said Spurred by 'Agents', 'Lies'

JN2201183395 Baghdad AL-IRAQ in Arabic 10 Jan 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed article: "American Orders to Agents Jalal and Mas'ud"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Telling lies is the motto of agent gangs. This is what we said in the 7 January issue of this paper. We affirmed that it is the Americans who have sparked this war which has gone beyond all limits. On the same day, Saturday, AL-ITTIHAD, which is published by the gang of agent Jalal [Talabani], carried a report confirming that "the U.S. State Department summoned on Friday the representatives of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] in Washington and handed them two letters for Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani concerning the present situation in the Kurdistan region." This is how the media of agent Jalal speak about his masters, without shame or scruple, to make others believe that the United States wants to see an end to the fighting. So, the United States issues "the orders" and it is up to the others to carry them out, because the war has gone beyond all limits and its continuation will mean that our Kurdish people will be forced to expel the spies: Jalal, Mas'ud, Kosrat, Nashirwan, Jalabi, their communist collaborators, and others.

The Americans are annoyed because their agent, Ahmad Jalabi, has failed in his role as the communicator of U.S. orders. Thus, the orders had to come directly from the U.S. State Department. In the meantime, the so-called minister of awqaf in the false government has issued an

appeal calling on mosque preachers and imams to urge the people to condemn the acts of murders and plunder which are taking place. He also called on employees to go on strike. The so-called members of parliament are still on a sit-in strike in the parliament building. They have made an appeal in which they announced that roads are still blocked and insecure, that people are in need of food and fuel, and that all this is due to the fighting which has spread to include all the towns of Kurdistan.

The so-called Islamic Movement, which is backed by Iran, is exploiting the situation by talking about fighting between Kurds. In a statement it has published, the movement wonders: Why and over what are the Kurds fighting each other? The movement answers by saying: Each warring side has an answer which contradicts the other, but the aim is one; namely, each side is trying to absolve itself of what has happened and to blame the other side for the crimes which are taking place.

These lies and contradictions by the agent gangs are clear from the commentary broadcast by the radio of agent Mas'ud on 8 January 1995 under the title: "The Military Union's Coup Backfires." The commentary replied to the reports disseminated by Jalal, Nashirwan, and Kosrat that they managed to carry out a military coup in the region. Mas'ud believes Jalal "is in a big political mess and that he has fallen in a deep, dark hole from which he cannot see the clear path to a solution."

These are the mutual lies, and this is the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan under the Americans and their agents. In these conditions, those who have lost respect under the domination of Jalal and Mas'ud include the Communist Party, which has said in commentaries broadcast over its radio that "the threat of a new outbreak of large-scale fighting still exists." The commentaries also spoke about operations of "storming and plundering the homes of citizens." However, the Communist Party does not dare say who is behind these operations, despite its knowledge. This is how the Communist Party has always been, an opportunist.

Let the liar Fu'ad Ma'sum, the disciple of the agent Jalal Talabani, read the commentary on the military coup cited by Jalal and Kosrat and read what the communists have said about acts of plunder and murder and gun duels. Let him also hear what the members of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan are saying, and then make another statement to Monte Carlo Radio that "the City of Irbil is calm and that the number of dead does not exceed six or seven."

Therefore, we repeat and say to this liar and his ilk: If you have no shame, do what you like.

Rabin Addresses Nation on Bet Lid Bombing

TA2301192395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the nation from the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen; dear citizens of the State of Israel; IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and commanders; members of the security forces:

We were dealt a heavy blow yesterday and today, and today many an eye is today filled with tears. Our hearts ache at the sight of the parents, brothers, sisters, and friends, because no words can console or heal the pain of bereavement. I know that the lives of 19 Israeli families will never be the same; the void in these families will be impossible to fill. In this bitter hour, we are neither left nor right-wing, neither religious nor secular. Today we are one Jewish people, and in the name of this Jewish people, whose history has known rough times and great hours, we share the pain and the tears. We send condolences to the families who lost their dear ones, and we send wishes for recovery to the wounded who are fighting for their lives. We send them our best wishes for a speedy return home.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to be an Israeli and a son of the Jewish people, a people who have preserved their faith, their religion, and above all, their hope of a return to Zion, over a 2,000-year Diaspora. It has lived to see the dream of generations come true, and it has been able to rebuild the Jewish state in the only location in which such a state can be built—in Eretz Yisra'el. It was able to establish a united Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people. Our path to that goal was rife with wars, obstacles, and difficulties, but having experienced both triumph and pain, we scored achievements that earned a justified admiration in the world. The road was not easy. We fought and we built. Our success has caused envy in many hearts throughout the world.

The painful casualties we sustained yesterday fall in the category of terror perpetrated by a new brand of our radical Palestinian-Islamic enemy. Only over the past two years have we had experience with that enemy inside Israel. Before that, we had to contend with Hizballah in Lebanon. This terror is perpetrated by insane people prepared to carry explosives on their bodies and in their cars, in order to kill Israelis, in order to kill the chance for peace which could end the most complex conflict between us and the Arab world—the conflict between us and the Palestinians.

We have to contend with these hate-filled fanatics, and just as we were able to foil some of their operations, we will fight them with all our might, and I am positive that in time, we will find a solution to them as well. They decided to attack us within sovereign Israel; they are resolved to strike at us in locations in which they still

enjoy freedom of movement. This requires us all to be alert, to be cautious, to sound an alarm on seeing anything suspicious. We have no choice: Today and until we triumph, the entire nation will have to be an army and the entire country a front.

Our enemy shall be told: We will continue fighting you in the present and future, as we did in the past. We will continue building our home and our family here, a home for each one of us and for all of us together. We will pursue the peace process, and at the same time, we will strike at you, we will pursue you. No border will deter us, and we will vanquish you. We will triumph. No enemy will defeat us.

I know that many people are asking—and I have been asked this myself: Have you brought peace, or is it terror? The path to peace is not easy. Some 17 years ago, the first peace between an Arab country and Israel was made. It should be credited to the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who had the courage to make a painful decision and to pay a painful price for peace. Today we are pursuing the path of peace. We want to resolve the painful problem between us and the Palestinians, that 100-year-old conflict. We have achieved full, contractual peace with Jordan, and we will persistently pursue the path of peace. There is no other option. We will achieve peace, because it is the long-term solution to terror, even if the present day is rough.

I am convinced that the path chosen by the government, the path that aims to end our rule over another nation—and the Palestinians in the territories are an entity separate from us in terms of religion, politics, nationality—is bound to bring about a separation, but not along the border lines which existed prior to 1967. Jerusalem will remain united forever. The State of Israel's security border will be placed on the Jordan River. We want to attain separation between us and you. We do not want the majority of the Jewish community, the Jewish residents of the State of Israel—98 percent of whom live inside sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem—to be exposed to terror. In the course of the near and the far future, we will attain a separation between us and you, but not on the basis of the lines that existed prior to the Six-Day War.

We must break the circle of hate, and we will, because we do not want mothers and fathers—and grandfathers, such as myself—to mourn our fine, our beautiful children. I know that the Jewish people have been able to overcome greater difficulties, despite pain and hardships. The citizens of the State of Israel have been able to overcome the hardships of wars, to stand up to terror; they have always been able to dream of peace while contending with enemies and at the same time building a country we can be proud of, with 4.4 million Jews, 5.3 million Israeli citizens. And we will continue. We will continue the struggle to achieve peace, to build the country, and we will fight the enemies of Israel and the enemies of peace. Let us not succumb to momentary

weakness. The Jewish people's special ability, which has proven itself throughout the ages; the State of Israel's ability to overcome wars which have claimed the lives of thousands of our sons, is our ingrained, distinctive quality, and we will achieve our goal.

I would like to say to you tonight, ladies and gentlemen, citizens of Israel: We are a strong country; we have a formidable army; we have a great capability to achieve all our goals—if we remember to define them as peace, security, construction, and development. Some moments are particularly difficult; they have to be overcome. We must find our collective common denominator. Only thus will we make the dream of generations of Jews—who envisioned it for the 2,000 years of the Diaspora—come true, and we will realize the Jewish belief in the return to Zion, in a strong country, and in a peaceful and secure life. Good evening.

'Military-Security Separation Line' With West Bank Planned

TA2301192795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have initial details of the discussions held over the past 24 hours between the prime minister and security elements on the establishment of a military/security separation line between Israel and the West Bank.

At yesterday's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said: A military-security separation line, which will be located east of the Green Line and will not have any connection with the planned permanent settlement line, is to be set up. THE ECONOMIST published a map today, which is based on Palestinian sources. The red line east of the Green Line is the military-security line Israel is planning. The prime minister referred to a line defended by many soldiers and policemen, as well as roadblocks; in fact, almost like a border. At yesterday's cabinet meeting, the participants were told preparations for the line will begin as soon as possible, but it will take several months to establish, and is not something that will come about overnight.

Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, the chief of staff, who addressed the cabinet yesterday, said the preparations will not take long. However, he made other grave remarks, some of which we will give you. He said the Palestinians do not uphold their commitments to security and that we must demand that they do so. Gaza and Jericho have become safe havens. He also said: We do not have a solution to suicide attackers.

The Shin Bet head made a number of proposals to solve the problem, but not all were approved. Here are several that were not approved: Deportation of families of suicide terrorists, closing Jerusalem to Palestinians during the month of Ramadan, and outlawing Islamic Jihad religious institutions.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1730 GMT on 23 January says in a report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, that "despite everything that has happened and all the declarations, the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations continued today on the implementation of the interim arrangements in the West Bank and the army's redeployment outside Palestinian cities.

["Consultations between the prime minister and foreign minister ended a short while ago at the Prime Minister's Bureau. Neither of the sides have been instructed to stop the negotiations."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 23 January reports that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres phoned Yasir 'Arafat tonight and demanded that he take resolute, powerful, and conspicuous action against fanatical Islamic terrorist organizations, which endanger the peace process. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that 'Arafat promised Peres to act against those organizations. Peres called 'Arafat after his meeting with Prime Minister Rabin, in which the two discussed the character of the continued dialogue with the PLO leader."

[The report also says that "the Palestinian trade unions sharply denounced the Bet Lid massacre, calling it a barbaric act. Nevertheless, they warn against growing unemployment and despair among Palestinians due to the closure on the territories, according to a letter sent by Ibrahim al-Barghuthi, head of the Center for Juridical Economic Rights in Ramallah, to Binyamin Segev, head of the HADASH (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) list in the Histadrut."]

Rabin Aide Favors Total Separation To Combat 'Terror'

TA2401061095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Yig'al Pressler, the prime minister's antiterror adviser, has said that total separation between Israel and the Palestinians is needed in order to reduce the number of suicide terror attacks. At the same time, he believes this is only a short-term solution.

Gen. Pressler believes the Palestinians are not doing enough to prevent acts of terror and doubts that they are willing to do more. Speaking with our correspondent Karmela Menashe, Pressler said the public's feeling that nothing can be done against suicide terrorists is wrong, because the security forces can hurt the terrorists and those who send them. According to him, the war on terrorism should be based on thorough intelligence gathering, initiated IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity, and alertness on the part of the public.

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Shahal: 6-8 Months Required for Total Separation

TA2401064695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600
GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said this morning that the Israel Police will require six to eight months to prepare for total separation between Israel and the Palestinians. Minister Shahal believes that facts on the ground should be established to allow physical separation, including a fence in certain areas and, primarily, a plan combining the deployment Border Police units and the use of updated technological and other means.

Minister Shahal confirmed to Qol Yisra'el yesterday's statement by Nabil Sha'th and said that the Palestinian police have prevented several planned terror attacks over the past few weeks.

Chief of Staff: PA Must Do More Against 'Terror'

TA2301175695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600
GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq says the Palestinian Authority [PA] must do more to fight terrorism in Gaza. At the same time, he said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will combat terror everywhere it hides. Lieutenant General Shahaq spoke to reporters at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem, where he visited soldiers wounded in yesterday's attack. Steve Linde has more: [passage omitted]

[Linde] We will strike at terrorism in every place it is hiding, Lt. Gen. Shahaq said. It is a war we have to continue fighting. We have to fight those who send murderers to carry out their mission and those who aid the murderers.

The chief of staff had a strong message for the PA: [passage omitted] In my opinion, he said, the PA must do much more and be more effective in fighting terrorism in Gaza.

As for the Bet Lid attack, the army chief said he could not say exactly where the two terrorists came from; certain things still needed to be checked. [passage omitted]

Peres on Determination To Prevent Creation of 'Mini-Iran'

TA2401121495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100
GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he does not know what total separation between Israel and the Palestinians means but that he personally would not oppose the construction of a security fence on the Green Line separating Israel proper from the territories. More from reporter Dick Winter:

[Begin recording] [Winter] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the author of the concept of a new Middle East,

definitely appeared uncomfortable with questions about what could be called a concept of the old Middle East: the total separation between Israel and Palestinians—an idea which has risen in the last two years only in the wake of a serious terrorist attack.

[Peres] I do not know what is a total separation. I think if we are talking about a fence against terror, I have nothing against it. But, basically, I would like to see the Palestinians running their lives and us running our life, yes.

[Winter] Is it not a bit of an illusion to think that total separation can take place?

[Peres] I did not use the term total separation. I would rather say: Let us leave the Palestinians their life and Israelis our life, and that is it.

[Winter] But speaking to reporters after a meeting with the Swedish deputy foreign minister, Shim'on Peres also emphasized Israel's forceful determination to keep the violence and terrorism of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from spreading:

[Peres] We in Israel do not intend to create here in our territories a mini-Iran, a center of crazy people who are trying to kill others and are willing to kill themselves without really providing an answer to the real needs of the majority of the people.

[Winter] On his telephone conversation yesterday with Yasir 'Arafat, Peres said Israel now expects from the Palestinian Authority not phone calls but action. [end recording]

[A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 24 January adds that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed that the negotiations with the PLO will continue and expressed the hope that putting up a security fence would not have a negative impact on the peace process or the permanent arrangement. We must continue the negotiations while waging a ruthless war against the Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the foreign minister said."]

Peres: Hamas, Jihad Charities, Mosques To Be Outlawed

TA2301170195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500
GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel will outlaw Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad charitable institutions and mosques in Judaea and Samaria. He also said every effort has to be focused on getting to suicide attackers before they perpetrate their deadly plans. On this issue, Peres said that we need to adopt draconian measures, and that no constraints should be imposed on methods or locations. Peres made these remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The foreign minister added that we should consider taking measures against families of suicide attackers and pressure the Syrians into banning the activities of Islamic Jihad's leader, who is based in Damascus.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the foreign minister reiterated that there has been no change in Israel's policy not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Peres' remarks were made in reaction to a report that Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said in Cairo that Israel would consider signing the treaty.

[A report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 23 January on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today revealed that the Palestinian Police have prevented several terrorist attacks against Israel. Peres added, however, that pressure must be put on the Palestinian Authority to prevent the launching of terror attacks from its territory."

[Correspondent Hadar Vismansky reports that "referring to the prime minister's remarks yesterday concerning the need for separation between Israelis and Palestinians, Peres sounded quite ambiguous." In a recorded passage, Peres says: "The term separation must be further defined. Does it mean that we are being separated from Gaza, or that we permitting Gaza to be separated from us, for instance? Or are we being separated from Gaza while at the same time remaining there and controlling it? Some terms must be defined before I can discuss them."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 23 January carries a report by David Ze'ev on Peres' remarks at the committee, adding: "Peres said Israel has irrefutable proof that the Fatah mainstream wing of the PLO has ceased terrorist activity and that the Palestinian police force has thwarted terrorist incidents against Israel.

["Speaking to reporters, the foreign minister said despite the problems, we will, in his words, sweep the region towards peace."

[The report adds: "Committee member Beni Begin of the Likud presented what he said is a report by the Military Prosecutor's Office on Palestinian violations of their agreements with Israel, including on the status of Jerusalem. Knesset Member Begin says: Again the government is trying to hide an important document." Ze'ev says that in reply, Peres said "neither he nor the prime minister requested the report or needed the report in order to know what the violations are, not do they have to respond to the report by the military prosecutor."]

Security Forces Close Hamas Institution, Arrest Shaykh

TA2401055095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces closed down the Association of Religious Sages in Palestine, the

supreme Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] religious body in Hebron, yesterday. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the security forces raided the building in which the association is located, searched it, confiscated documents, and closed it. Our correspondent notes that for a long time, the security forces have refrained from operating against Hamas institutions in the territories because of legal reasons; however, they recently amassed large quantities of information regarding the activities of these institutions, which made it possible to close them down.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 24 January adds: "Last night, the security forces detained Shaykh Ahmad al-Hajj 'Ali, a Hamas activist, in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the shaykh is suspected of conducting hostile activity on behalf of Hamas."]

Move Against Hamas in Janin, al-Birah

TA2401083695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning, the security forces also closed down the Janin and al-Birah offices of the Association of Religious Sages in Palestine. The Hebron office was closed last night. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] association, said that the organization was founded three years ago and its goals are no secret. At the same time, al-Baytawi confirmed that, approximately two months ago, the association issued a Muslim decree against conciliation with Jews, recognition of the State of Israel, and normalization with it.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the security forces have recommended to the political echelons that steps be taken against the social and economic infrastructure of Hamas in Judaea and Samaria, because it provides centers of incitement for the Palestinians in the territories. [passage omitted]

Further on Security Forces Sweep

TA2401120395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Report by Dani Zaqen in the territories]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the past few days, the security forces have been energetically operating against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad organizations in the territories. Dozens of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists have been arrested over the past two days: 50 in the Hebron area; 10 in the Nabulus area; a similar number in the Janin area; and a few more in the Ramallah and East Jerusalem areas. Shaykh Ahmad Hajj 'Ali, a former Hamas deportee, was among the activists arrested in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp in the Nabulus area, and another deportee was

arrested in the Balatah refugee camp. Five students from al- Najah University were arrested last night, and four residents of the village of 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah were detained this morning.

At the same time, an extensive intelligence campaign is being waged in an effort to capture the actual terrorists belonging to the organizations and those Palestinians who assist them. For example, the house of a fugitive from the Qalqilyah region was searched, but the terrorist was not found. The detentions in the Hebron region focused on several villages, including Tarqumiyah, Baytillu, and others, known for being Islamic organization strongholds.

Palestinian sources told us that the home of Shaykh Taysir al- Tamimi, one of the most prominent Hamas leaders in the West Bank, in Hebron was also searched last night. [passage omitted]

Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, said this morning that the IDF has launched an all-out war against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and, he said, much remains to be done. Biran toured Jerusalem today and viewed the roadblocks closing it to the residents of the territories.

NRP's Hammer: Rabin Address Sold People 'Illusions'

TA2401092195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Reacting to the prime minister's televised address, National Religious Party [NRP] leader Zvulun Hammer said that the prime minister, as he put it, sold the people illusions instead of disassociating himself from the failure of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Likud Leader Qatzav Critical of Rabin Speech

TA2301195395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, the opposition expressed their fury over the prime minister's decision not to appear before the Knesset plenum, but rather to make his statement on television. The head of the Likud faction, Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav, said Rabin prefers television and avoids giving statements to the Knesset. Tzomet leader, MK Refa'el Eytan, said that the prime minister showed contempt for the Knesset, for the families of the casualties of yesterday's terrorist attack, and for the state as a whole.

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss said it was the Knesset House Committee which decided this morning that on this day, when the funerals of the casualties are taking place, there should not be an expectedly stormy debate in the Knesset plenum. Speaker Weiss said that it was at his

recommendation that the prime minister not give a statement to the Knesset today.

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 23 January, in a report from the Knesset in Jerusalem, points to "displeasure among the opposition MK's." Likud's Qatzav, stating that the nation's unity should naturally be maintained and its spirit boosted on such a tragic day, still has the following criticism of Rabin's address:

["Rabin should not have included a disputed political chapter in his speech. It would have been better if the prime minister used the Knesset as the venue for his address. Still, practically speaking, if in the term separation the prime minister is talking about his tendency to leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria, he will not be able to achieve the goal of peace. Very regrettably, this process is not leading to peace. It began about 15 months ago; it only led to an increase in terror and murders, and the question now should be whether the government can reassess its policy to build a new attitude, a new policy."]

Clinton's Condolence Message on Bet Lid Reported

TA2301160895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a message to Prime Minister Rabin, expressing his condolences and sorrow at the Bet Lit bombing.

He wrote: The most sickening sight was seeing extreme Palestinians despicably celebrating outside the home of the suicide attackers from Gaza.

The U.S. President said the peace process should continue, and that he admires the Israeli Government's resolve to pursue the talks with the Palestinians.

The Israeli people should know that just as the United States stands by them in their moments of great triumph, the American people will stand by their side in this hour of sorrow and desperation. Together we will face the terrorists, in order to gain peace and security for generations to come.

This was President Clinton's message to Prime Minister Rabin.

Israel Seeks UN Condemnation of Islamic 'Terrorism'

TA2201170995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the United Nations, Israel has demanded an unequivocal condemnation by the international community of the mass murder perpetrated by extremist Islamic terrorism. The demand was made by

Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi in a letter to the UN secretary general, Butrus Butrus -Ghali.

Rabin, Weizman Confer on 'Terrorism,' Peace Process

TA2301112195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin phoned President 'Ezer Weizman in the wake of the latter's statement that the peace process must be reassessed and his call for the establishment of a national unity government. The president's aides said the two men had a heart-to-heart talk, while the prime minister's aides noted that no hard feelings remained between the two men.

Mr. Rabin briefed the president about the cabinet decisions last night in the wake of the Bet Lid massacre and about future steps to curb terror.

Peres on Ma'ale Adumim, Need for Unity in Labor

TA2001193895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that Ma'ale Adumim was never annexed to Israel, nor is it separate from Israel. Its fate will be discussed in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. In the meantime, however, life there goes on. The foreign minister made the remarks in an interview on this evening's Israel Television Channel 1 weekly newsreel.

Referring to the Eli Dayan affair, the foreign minister said Dayan misbehaved and there is no justification for his conduct, but the party should hear him out before it draws conclusions. Peres also stressed that the Labor leadership should unite the ranks and not only censure them. He believes this is what the prime minister is trying to do, and he intends to assist Rabin to the extent he is asked.

SHAS To Vote For No Confidence; Labor Upset

TA2401124795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset faction has decided to vote for the motion of no confidence in the government at the Knesset this evening. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the decision was made by Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef [SHAS spiritual mentor].

Faction Chairman Shlomo Benizri said that SHAS will vote against the government in the wake of its decision to set up a ministerial committee on construction around Jerusalem, as well as over the desecration of the Sabbath that took place during the economic debate at the prime minister's house on 21 January. He stressed that the government decision to set up the ministerial committee is a sign of its insensitivity.

In response, senior Labor members said that a vote against the government would make SHAS an opposition party, adding that the prime minister may give the interior portfolio he is holding in trust for SHAS, to Minister Moshe Shahal and let Minister 'Uzi Bar'am handle the religious affairs portfolio. This was reported by our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

[A similar live report from the Knesset by Yo'el Nir adds that the SHAS decision places "the government under no real threat" "as it has 63 votes against the motion for certain and 55 for the opposition," adding that "this is not the first time SHAS has voted against the government during the current government term."]

U.S. Envoy Directed To Broaden Dialogue on Iranian Threat

TA2001134595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has directed Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington, to broaden the dialogue and to strive to expand the intelligence cooperation with the U.S. Administration on the issue of Iran's nuclear buildup.

In a cable to Rabinovich, Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Eytan Bentzur writes that he should emphasize in his talks with the Americans that Iran is today a threat to the entire region, not only to Israel, and that, consequently, the international community is duty-bound to join forces in stemming Iran's nuclear endeavors.

The cable further states that the Iranians have placed nuclear capability at the top of their national priorities and that it is "merely a matter of time" before they achieve that goal. Rabinovich is asked to conduct discussions with the Americans on expanding cooperation in the fields of intelligence gathering, information analysis, and the continued supervision of the Iranian endeavors' progress.

Foreign Ministry sources said that the directives to the Washington ambassador are merely the start of a diplomatic drive aimed at taking advantage of the renewed interest in Iran's buildup.

Bilateral Meetings With Palestinians in Amman

Talks Resume

JN2301191195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian-Palestinian official meetings resumed in Amman today to map the general framework of the various aspects of the relations of cooperation and coordination between the Jordanian Government and the Palestinian National Authority for the next phase.

The two sides held an expanded working session at the Interior Ministry this evening. The Jordanian side was led by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and minister education. The Palestinian side was led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of culture and information. The two sides discussed the results of the work of the subcommittees set up at yesterday's meeting. The subcommittees worked throughout last night and today to prepare joint working papers covering the bases of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, educational, financial, transportation, post, and telecommunications fields in the service of the distinguished ties between the two brotherly peoples and their interrelated interests. A communiqué is expected to be issued at the end of the meetings on the results that will be reached.

Accords Reached; Talks End

JN2301204795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Now over to this report which we received from our correspondent a short while ago on the conclusion of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which were cochaired by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and minister of education, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of culture at the Palestinian National Authority. A number of bilateral cooperation agreements were reached. At the end of this session, al-Rawabidah and 'Abd-Rabbuh answered correspondents' questions. Let us listen to some of their answers:

[Begin recording] [al-Rawabidah] I am pleased to tell my honorable brothers that today we reached a general agreement. It will be submitted to His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President 'Arafat for signature. The agreement maps the general framework of cooperation. We also agreed on six executive agreements in the fields of trade, transportation, banks, post and telecommunications, culture and information, and administrative affairs. God willing, these agreements will be signed during his majesty the king's meeting with His Excellency President 'Arafat.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have there been any amendments to the agreement that was signed in October 1994?

[Al-Rawabidah] The amendments to the commercial, monetary, and banking agreement have been necessitated by recent changing circumstances. However, the spirit with which that agreement was reached remained the same.

[Correspondent] Can you give us an idea about the amendments?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No substantive amendments to the former draft agreements have been introduced. On the first hand, the amendments that have been introduced are aimed at clarifying and promoting what was agreed upon in the past. On the second hand, new detailed agreements in new fields have been reached to arrive at a comprehensive and integrated cooperation agreement that opens the way for other future agreements in new areas.

[Correspondent] Regarding economic cooperation, is there a (?joint agreement) [words indistinct]?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The agreement in the economic and monetary field is a joint and complete agreement. We believe that it covers all issues of interest to the two sides at this stage. Of course, these agreements will be submitted to his majesty the king and President Yasir 'Arafat for discussion and signature. We believe that what we have achieved is an important and qualitative step in shared common constants. [end recording]

Foreign Minister: Egyptian Summit 'Positive'

JN2301080995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has announced that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman next Wednesday [25 January] to hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on several bilateral issues, especially those related to the peace process and the challenges facing the Arab nation at present.

He added that the talks will deal with the results of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, which began its meetings at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. The committee is dealing with various political, economic, cultural, and transportation issues, he said.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Kabariti hailed the results of the Jordanian-Egyptian summit held the day before yesterday between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Answering a question from AL-DUSTUR, the minister said the atmosphere of the certainly result in a joint Egyptian-Jordanian efforts toward Arab reconciliation.

Paper: 'Arafat Visit To Herald 'New Era' in Ties

JN2301085095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Lamis K. Andoni]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanian and Palestinian officials started meetings on Sunday to prepare for a visit by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Amman this week.

The two sides were expected to discuss draft cooperation agreements to be signed by His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat after the PLO leader arrives on Wednesday.

Jordanian and Palestinian officials told the JORDAN TIMES that agreements in all spheres should be reached by Monday evening to be incorporated in a broad protocol for cooperation.

They said that the draft economic agreement reached last January will be "updated" as the two sides are seeking to make modifications in the document to adjust to developments that had taken place, especially the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Meetings between ministers of various economic fields continued late on Sunday night "to update" the economic agreement and produce a final draft.

A Jordanian official who attended the meetings described the talks as "extremely friendly" and expressed hope that they would signal a new beginning in bilateral relations.

"I think that by the end of this week when His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat meet, we will witness totally new era characterised with warmth and close coordination," the official said.

Earlier on, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah made a more cautious assessment.

"The citizen has to see a practical translation of this special relationship...so it is premature to assess the talks," Mr. al-Rawabidah told reporters after the talks.

Mr. al-Rawabidah's reserved comments mainly reflected concern and caution that the talks could raise high expectations but without producing tangible results. Mr. al-Rawabidah, a sharp-minded man known for his frankness, was referring to previous rounds of Jordanian-Palestinian talks, that he himself attended.

Jordan was disappointed in the past when Mr. 'Arafat failed repeatedly to sign or even approve bilateral agreements.

But this time Palestinian officials said that the stage is set for a general Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and Mr. 'Arafat was coming to start a new era.

"It is no longer feasible or possible to ignore relations with Jordan. The Palestinians will just be concerned by Israel. Jordanians and Palestinians need each other," a Palestinian official said. Mr. 'Arafat realises now the importance of mending fences and starting cooperation with Jordan, the official told the JORDAN TIMES.

"All Arab states and parties are aware now that separate paths will not lead far; neither Jordan nor the Palestinians can do without consolidating their Arab dimensions," said a Jordanian official.

Mr. 'Arafat's visit, the first since May, signals a positive shift in bilateral relations that have been strained since the PLO signed a separate agreement with Israel in September 1993.

Relations further deteriorated when Jordan signed a peace agreement last October that included an Israeli recognition of the Jordanian custodianship of the Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem.

But it was made possible by decisions by the two sides separately to stop making an issue of the Jordanian role in Jerusalem at Arab and Islamic meetings.

The Palestinian Authority was particularly comfortable with recent Jordanian statements mostly by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, that Jordan supports a solution based on the recognition of Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

Mr. al-Kabariti's statements reflected the government's policy and were crucial to the easing of the tensions since they addressed Palestinian fears and sensitivity towards the issue.

Meanwhile Jordan denied on Saturday it had agreed with Israel to build a \$100 million, 260 kilometre pipeline for refined oil products.

An Israeli energy ministry spokesman told Reuters on Thursday that Israel and Jordan had agreed in principle to build such a pipeline.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an Energy Ministry spokesman as saying no energy projects were defined in recent talks with Israel.

"Discussing any future projects will only happen in due course," he added.

The Israeli official has said the pipeline would run between state owned Oil Refineries Ltd's Haifa plant and Jordan's al-Zarqa' refinery, before a six-month deadline set in the peace treaty they signed on Oct. 26.

King Said To Conduct 'Quiet' UK-Iraq Mediation *JN2301132795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 23 Jan 95* *p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the quiet and calm mediation his majesty the king has recently engaged in between London and Baghdad has realized considerable success, and that a noticeable improvement has taken place in the British position on the siege imposed on Iraq.

AL-MAJD can emphasize, based on the most reliable sources, that the results of the royal mediation in

improving the British position will be practically manifested within the next few months and that the British position will be close to the French position, which now calls for lifting the sanctions on Iraq after Iraq implemented all its obligations.

The reliable sources said the balance of powers at the Security Council began to tilt in favor of lifting the siege on Iraq after the United States became the only party opposed to this. The United States is finding it difficult to convince the other Security Council states of the justification and reasons for its intransigent position. This was pointed out by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in a speech at the conference of international figures in solidarity with Iraq last Thursday when he emphasized that the siege is no more an international siege, but has become a U.S. one.

'Aziz implicitly referred to the success of the Jordanian mediation with Britain when he spoke, first, on the continuation of Jordanian support for Iraq, and second, on a visit to Baghdad by a large British trade delegation soon.

Meanwhile, AL-MAJD has learned that the finance, planning, and industry and trade ministers in the new government are convinced that lifting the siege on Iraq will result in a boom in the Jordanian economy. They are also convinced that the end of the current Jordanian economic crisis will not be attained through completing the openness measures with Israel but through restoring commercial, industrial, and services activities with Iraq in particular, and the Gulf states in general.

AL-MAJD learned that the Jordanian private sector, and the industrial sector in particular led by the Chamber of Industry, has recently begun the broadest campaign of contacts with Iraq with the aim of gradually increasing Jordanian exports to Iraq without waiting for the international resolutions on lifting the siege.

A source from the Chamber of Industry said cooperation with Iraq and all which is concerned with entrenching its economic domination of Jordan and the Arabs.

Amman Denies Report on Joint Israeli Pipeline

JN2101151795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The official spokesman for the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry has denied that the talks taking place with the Israeli side have tackled the subject of constructing a pipeline to transport refined oil products between Jordan and Israel.

In a comment on a REUTER report that quoted sources in Jerusalem and was published by a local newspaper, the spokesman told the Jordanian News Agency that during the talks with the Israeli side no energy projects have

been decided. The spokesman said discussing any future projects will be held whenever the situation warrants.

Kuwaiti Charge Meets With Government Officials

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN2301152295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received in his office today Faysal Mukhayzim, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaire in Amman. During the meeting, the two officials discussed bilateral relations and reviewed a number of issues of joint interest.

Meets With Interior Minister

JN2301154095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 23 Jan (PETRA)—Interior Minister Salamah Hammad received in his office this morning Faysal Mukhayzim, Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Amman.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the most important security issues between the two sisterly countries.

Official Explains Procedure for Entry to Israel

JN2201120895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jan 95 pp 1, 27

[FBIS Translated Text] Commander of the Jordan Valley crossing point, Shaykh Husayn Bridge, has said that Jordanians seeking to visit Israel need not obtain a temporary passport.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Major Hisham al-Majali has said that a Jordanian who has an entry visa to Israel should be in possession of a permanent passport for crossing into Israel, noting that the stamp will be put on a separate card and not on the passport.

Regarding the obstacles impeding movement through the crossing point, al-Majali said that complex procedures, lack of computers, difficulty of contacts between the crossing point and the Ministry of Interior, and other reasons obstruct the entry of arrivals, mostly tourist groups, to Jordan. He said that preparation of their documents takes many hours.

In another development, concerned organs will start as of next month the implementation of the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty that deal with the passage through the Jordan Valley crossing of Jordanian and Israeli private cars with their original license plates. Work is currently underway to expand the Jordan Valley crossing so that it will have four tracks instead of one in order to absorb the traffic movement which will increase in the coming stage.

PFLP-GC Unit Attacks Israeli Convoy in South*JN2001211095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Pursuant to our military communique issued on 19 January 1995 regarding the clash that occurred between our mujahidin and an enemy convoy near the Palestinian-Lebanese borders, we state the following:

A five-member martyrdom group of the PFLP-GC ambushed a Zionist enemy convoy on the road between the Lebanese township of al-Tayyibah and the Zionist settlement of Misgav 'Am, al-'Udaysah, in the occupied Palestinian territories.

At 1240 on Thursday, 19 January 1995, an enemy convoy arrived in the township of al-Tayyibah from the occupied Palestinian territories. The convoy was made up of a large truck, two (?Kimikow) vehicles full of soldiers, a Willis jeep, a civilian car, and a Range Rover car carrying enemy officers. The convoy was guarded by an M-113 armored personnel carrier.

When the convoy arrived near our martyrdom fighters's ambush, which was only a few meters from the road where the convoy was moving, our martyrdom heroes, who were lying in wait in deserted houses beside the road, opened fire with their machine guns, used antiarmor vehicles weapons, hurled hand grenades, and then stormed the convoy shouting God is great.

In accordance with the mujahidin of our support group, the group continued shooting for over half an hour, killing most of the enemy personnel in the convoy and destroying the enemy's vehicles. Helicopter gunships then arrived from the nearby Zionist settlement of Misgav 'Am to reinforce the tanks and the soldiers. The enemy helicopter gunships were confronted by the support group with anti-aircraft Straella missiles. The enemy artillery also shelled the villages of Qabrihah, al-Qantarah, and nearby areas brutally and indiscriminately.

This honorable confrontation, which took place in broad daylight, resulted in the martyrdom of five of our heroic mujahidin. A communique will be issued later with the names and pictures of the heroes of martyrdom group.

The enemy's attempt to conceal its true losses is due to its eagerness to cover the collapsing morale of its army, which receives daily blows from the resistance heroes in southern Lebanon and inside occupied Palestine.

In light of this heroic confrontation deep inside the enemy's defenses and near the Palestinian territories, The PFLP-GC stresses that the battle will go on to

liberate southern Lebanon, Palestine, and Jerusalem, and no traitorous revolution until the liberation of land and man.

Jibril Warns of More Attacks*NC2301204795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC], has stressed his determination to continue operations against Israel from south Lebanon. He warned that the attacks will be more painful and nearer to Palestine, specifically, deep into the Zionist occupation zone.

Jibril said this while accepting condolences in Beirut on the death of six PFLP-GC members who were killed Thursday [19 January] in an operation against the Israeli Army. It should be noted that this is the first visit by Ahmad Jibril to Lebanon in 18 months.

Gingrich Remarks on U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Assailed**'Hostility to Everything Arab'***NC2301115395 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Jan 95 p 1*

["Event of the Day" column by Nabil Khuri: "Strutting Around"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Newt Gingrich. We should get used to this name because he seems determined to handle our affairs in quite a provocative and insolent manner.

Mr. Gingrich, whose name we cannot so far pronounce, is the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in the Republican era, which started a few weeks ago.

It seems that Mr. Gingrich, whose origins we also do not know, does not like to beat around the bush. In the first statement he made to the press after he took over office from his Democratic predecessor, he said he supports moving his country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, so long as this is the wish of his country's ally, Israel. He added that Syria must be punished for its stances and that he is opposed to any leniency toward Iraq.

He has said many other things. Each word he has uttered in his statements shows an early hostility to everything Arab. It portends an early confirmation of the need to reinforce the Israeli-American alliance.

The U.S. State Department responded with a laconic statement to Gingrich's remarks, saying that the subject of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem

is a very sensitive one. Christine Shelly reiterated President Bill Clinton's stances that his administration will not do anything that could complicate the peace talks in the Middle East.

Miss, or Mrs. Shelly, as the case may be, is thanked for considering the issue of moving the embassy a very sensitive one, although we consider it a very dangerous matter because the person who is anxious about this move is the speaker of the House of Representatives, in which his party enjoys a comfortable majority.

This press statement might be changed, (and will be changed), into a draft law in the House of Representatives. It might even be approved and then it will be put to the U.S. Administration (and its party, which has become a minority) before a fait accompli.

Then, negotiations over our heads will start.

If Clinton wants to be generous to us, he might veto the law so that it will be referred for rediscussion. If he is put in a tight spot, however, he will strike a deal to have one of his laws passed in return for passing this one.

There is no need to say that any Arab objection to this matter, ever since we have stopped being frightened and frightening others, will, in the best of cases, fall on deaf ears, not to say that it will not be heard at all.

It has been said that you only realize the worth of a person when you have to deal with another person of less worth.

In our story with the Republican Party, which has been a minority in Congress for 40 years, Mr. Gingrich's seat has just gotten hot under him and he has started strutting around in front of us.

It is true that God should have mercy on the Democratic Party.

Remark Said Part of Pro-Israel 'Competition'

NC2301204295 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Jan 95
p 15

[Article by Muhammad Shuraydah: "Competition To Serve Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the victory of the Republicans in the U.S. midterm elections and their control of Congress, there has been a huge media clamor over U.S. aid to many countries, especially to Israel. At more than \$3 billion, the aid to Israel is the largest portion of U.S. foreign aid.

Despite mutual reassurances between U.S. and Israeli officials that the Republicans' sword of financial reduction, which will hit sensitive sections of the U.S. budget, will not touch the aid to Israel, it appears that the new

situation resulting from the Republicans's arrival in positions of power will be better for Israel.

The Republicans' control of the two houses of Congress at this particular time, when preparations for the presidential elections are drawing near, will create a kind of competition between the Republicans and Democrats to please Israel and provide it with assistance and services.

This competition was evident recently in a number of steps beneficial to the Israeli government and its expansionist schemes and to the superiority of the Hebrew state and the U.S. commitment to its security.

While the Rabin government continues to support the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, announcing plans to double the number of housing units there, the administration of President Bill Clinton has not yet reacted or even showed any signs of opposition, although the building operation is probably being financed by the \$10 billion U.S. loan guarantees to Israel. This is a violation of one of the terms of the loan guarantees—namely, that the money must not be used to finance settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, which Washington considers—at least theoretically—part of the occupied territories.

This American silence—perhaps collusion—concerning the expansion of the settlements coincides with a message Clinton sent to Yasir 'Arafat in which he stresses that Washington is committed to the full implementation of the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. This appears to be a cover for the continued settlement policy.

If Clinton's Democratic administration shows this amount of tolerance toward Israel and its practices, the new officials in the two houses of the Congress cannot be less tolerant. On the contrary, they showed more enthusiasm in supporting Israel.

This enthusiasm was represented by new House of Representative Speaker Newt Gingrich's announcement that he supports the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This constitutes a recognition of Israel's attempts to establish the holy city as its "eternal capital," and is a retreat from the declared U.S. policy in this respect.

On the competition principle, this Republican position will certainly prompt a rival Democratic stance. This is proven by a report leaked by some U.S. diplomatic sources that the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will take place before the end of Clinton's term. It should be noted here that Clinton during his election campaign pledged to do this. be the biggest beneficiary from the Democratic-Republican rivalry in the United States.

Commentary Questions Israel's Desire for Peace
*JN2301155695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1242 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: In a meeting held yesterday, the Israeli Government permitted the continuation of building activities in the settlements surrounding occupied Jerusalem. The Rabin government had said it will continue to encourage investors to accomplish more of the so-called economic development projects in the Golan settlements.

Two days ago, Yosi Beilin, Israeli deputy foreign minister, who is considered a Labor Party dove, said Israel will insist on including in the map of Israel the settlements near Jerusalem in the West Bank. Beilin arrogantly and intransigently said: The Israeli Government should continue the settlement activities in Jerusalem in an intensive manner before the whole world.

This statement by Beilin, which openly defies the world, as well as the Israeli Government's measures on the ground, allow no room for discussing Israel's intentions. The least that can be said about these intentions is that they are not peaceful and they depart from peace. This is because someone who really seeks peace does not place thousands of obstacles and mines along the path of peace. Israel knows the settlements in the occupied Arab territories are real obstacles to the peace process. This has been asserted by the world, including the United States.

Moreover, someone who wants peace does not encourage the establishment of projects in the Golan, regardless of their nature, as long as this occupied Syrian territory is the theme of negotiations between Syria and Israel. Someone who really wants peace does not bring in the

most sophisticated weapons while refusing to join international legitimacy and agreements, led by the treaty on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Beilin confirmed Israel's refusal to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty. He justified this refusal by saying Israel will only sign the treaty after peace is achieved in the region. Beilin even refused to set a date for signing the treaty. Doesn't this mean that Israel insists on ignoring international will and on keeping weapons of mass destruction at a time when the region is supposed to be living in an atmosphere of peace negotiations with Syria and of peace, so to say, with Jordan and the Palestinians?

In view of this Israeli defiance of the whole world and of all international resolutions and principles, in broad daylight, we wonder: Where is the Israeli officials' talk about peace? How can talk about peace be sound at a time when Israel has turned into a huge arsenal of conventional and nonconventional weapons?

Israel's settlement activities, armaments, repressive and terrorist practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, and attacks on southern Lebanon confirm that Israel is a state that does not love peace, that it does not seek peace, and that it only wants to gain time, increase the settlements, and Judaize the occupied territories in order to keep them forever.

Naturally, the absence of international deterrence, the continuation by the international community and its effective forces of the double standard policy, and the fact that some Arabs rushed to open their borders and extend their hands to Israel even before the latter declares its readiness to withdraw from the occupied territories have all encouraged Israel to disregard international will and continue to violate international law. If this situation continues without receiving a firm international and Arab reply, the current peace opportunity will be gone with the wind.

Bangladesh

Bomb 'Hurled' at Zia Motorcade During Strike

BK2401065595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0642 GMT
24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Jan 24 (AFP)—A crude bomb was hurled Tuesday [17 January] at a motorcade carrying Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia after she inaugurated an international investor's conference, but no one was injured, witnesses said.

An AFP photographer on the scene said the bomb did not hit any of the cars in the convoy, which sped away towards Zia's office. The bomb exploded on the road, letting out smoke. Police fired tear gas and used batons to disperse opposition strike activists and arrested several people, witnesses said.

The incident followed a half-day general strike against inflation, one in a lengthy series of strikes the opposition has called in its efforts to bring about early elections under a neutral caretaker government. The strike coincided with the Euromoney International Investors' Conference, which focused on business opportunities in Bangladesh.

Thousands of police and paramilitary forces guarded the streets and cordoned off the Sonargaon Hotel, the venue of the conference. As investors gathered, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman urged the opposition to call off its general strike and spare the economy.

Schools, shops and businesses were shut, and vehicles, except for three-wheel pedicabs, stayed off the streets.

Police escorted ministers and guests to the site of the conference, the first ever to focus exclusively on Bangladesh.

The opposition has come under fire from the business community for calling strikes for Tuesday and Wednesday. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Bangladesh's main opposition leader, said the strike was a protest against an unusual increase in the price of consumer goods ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which starts in February. Ramadan is a month of daytime fasts that are usually followed by after-dark feasts, and large quantities of food are consumed during this period.

The nationwide general strike planned for Wednesday was to push the opposition's 10-month-old demand for elections under a neutral caretaker government to ensure people's voting rights, Wajed said.

"We are not against investment. We love this country," but development should take place in a "sound political system," she said.

Opposition MPs from Wajed's Awami League, deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad's Jatiya Party

and the Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party resigned from parliament December 28 after boycotting it since March.

India

Iraq Seeks Help in Getting Sanctions Lifted

BK2101161595 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq has sought India's help in getting the UN economic embargo against it lifted. The Iraqi labor minister, Mr. Latif Jasim, now in New Delhi, told a news conference that the embargo is continuing even after his country implemented all the international resolutions.

Former Minister Arjun Singh Suspended for Remarks

BK2401114795 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 1135 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, has been suspended from the primary membership of the Congress-I with immediate effect. This was announced by the party general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, in New Delhi today. He said the disciplinary action has been taken for his utterances which tarnished the image and interest of the party and created confusion in the party ranks. Mr. Poojary said that Mr. Singh has been suspended by the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, as per the power vested in him under the party constitution. With his suspension, Mr. Singh ceased to be a member of the Congress-I Working Committee and all other party forums. Mr. Poojary said that specific charges against Mr. Singh will be given by the Disciplinary Action Committee of the party to which the matter has been now referred.

Rao Sees 'No Danger' of Split in Congress Party

BK2401125995 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 1230 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, has been suspended from the primary membership of the Congress-I with immediate effect. He will also cease to be a member of the Congress-I Working Committee and all other party forums. Announcing this in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, said the disciplinary action has been taken for Mr. Singh's utterances which tarnished the image and interest of the party and created confusion among the party ranks. He said Mr. Singh has been suspended by the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in exercise of the power vested in him under the party constitution. Mr. Poojary said the matter has now been referred to the party Disciplinary Action Committee. Describing the issues raised by Mr. Arjun Singh in his resignation letter from

the Cabinet as nonissues, Mr. Poojary said as a senior minister he was a party to all the decisions.

The Uttar Pradesh Congress-I chief, Mr. Jitendra Prasad, who was present, said that Mr. Narain Dutt Tiwari has not committed any breach of discipline and he cannot be clubbed with Mr. Arjun Singh.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, says there is no danger of a split in the party. Speaking to PTI shortly before Mr. Arjun Singh's suspension from the party, Mr. Rao rejected allegations made by the former human resource development minister in his resignation letter. Mr. Rao emphatically denied that there is any political instability or a crisis of confidence in the wake of reverses suffered by the Congress-I in the recent assembly elections. Replying to a question, he said calm and dispassionate handling of a situation should not be confused with indecisiveness.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, welcoming the suspension of Mr. Arjun Singh, said discipline is imperative for smooth functioning of the party.

A member of the Congress-I Working Committee, Mr. A.K. Antony, termed the suspension of Mr. Arjun Singh as sad and unfortunate, but he said it is not likely to lead to any split in the party. Mr. Antony said in New Delhi that the issue should have been sorted out through dialogue.

***February Elections Termed Rao's 'Last Chance'**

95AS0170A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in
English 13 Dec 94 p 15

[Article by M. D. Nalapat: "February Polls Hold Key to Rao's Future"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec. 12—Despite the public affirmation of faith in the leadership, senior members of the Congress working committee (CWC) privately contend that the two months before the February [rescheduled in March] polls are a "last chance" for Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Should those polls go the way of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, "there will either be a leadership change or a split," according to a senior CWC member. In his view, this perception "is shared by members of Parliament belonging to the southern states," who are edgy about their prospects of re-election.

Soundings among MPs [Members of Parliament] from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka indicate a widespread view that the leadership should own responsibility for the southern debacle, given the fact that "the entire process of election, beginning from selection of candidates to focus on issues, was orchestrated from Delhi."

They point out that repeated written memoranda had been sent, demanding a full recasting of the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) before the polls, but the demands were ignored.

"Once again a small group of leaders with personal access to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president had its way in the selection of candidates, to the exclusion of fresh faces," as one leader said, on condition of anonymity. His view was corroborated by others.

Within the Congress, a distinction can be made between "declared" challengers, such as Mr Arjun Singh, Mr Sharad Pawar and Mr N. D. Tiwari; "consensus hopefuls" such as Mr Pranab Mukherjee and Mr S. B. Chavan, who expect that with the outgoing leader's help they can manipulate a consensus in their favour in the event of a change; and "undeclared contenders" such as Mr A. K. Antony and Mr Rajesh Pilot, who are content to support the Prime Minister now while hoping for an orderly transfer of power at a later date.

As of now, neither the second nor the third group is in favour of a confrontation with the Prime Minister, though this could change should the February results prove as disastrous as the December have been.

As for the first group (of declared challengers), while they will use every opportunity to distance themselves from Mr Rao's line, the expectation is that the Prime Minister will avoid dramatic action and continue with his "freeze" strategy of the past six months.

In the view of a senior cabinet minister, "experience shows that this Prime Minister, unlike Indira Gandhi or Rajiv, lapses into inactivity when confronted with a challenge. It is only in good times that he feels emboldened to move decisively".

Within the labyrinths of power in the Congress party, there are two strands of thought—not necessarily exclusive—concerning the reasons for the just-concluded rout. The political strand (articulated most forcefully by Mr Arjun Singh) is that the Prime Minister "did not initiate any steps to retain the support of the backward classes and the minorities." Further, "the party organisation has been totally neglected, with the result that the cadres have become inactive, even during elections."

The economic strand (articulated by Mr Pranab Mukherjee and Mr A. K. Antony) holds that the "liberalisation policy did not contain any component that would attract labour or the poor at large." While Mr Mukherjee has been calling for assistance to Indian manufacturers rather than to foreign companies, Mr Antony has been pressing for a "safety net" to protect the weaker sections.

While the proponents of both the political as well as the economic strands have thus far been muffled in their attack on present policies, the scent of disaster in 1996 could lead them to adopt a shriller tone.

Congress party workers are believed to be unhappy at the leadership's "refusal to take account of the voter's growing anger against corruption and money power," said a party source. A southern PCC president (who has

often gone on record against liberalisation) told this correspondent that the "indifferences of Mr Narasimha Rao to corruption charges against his team has led the voter to believe that a cover-up is in operation to hide instances of corruption".

By repeatedly postponing political decisions, the Prime Minister—whose record in damping social tensions and in creating a climate for growth has been good—may have led himself into a classic "double bind" situation. Unless he treads on the toes of senior leaders and forces major changes through the party machine and changes his approach in making lists of candidates now, he may face a second debacle in February.

On the other hand, the defeat in Andhra and Karnataka may have further affected his ability to move decisively.

Court Orders Commission Not to Delay Elections

BK1801032895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court has ordered the Election Commission not to put off assembly elections in Bihar and Orissa on the photo identity cards issue. In a significant order, the court ruled that election in the two states shall not be withheld on the sole ground that they have failed to stick to the deadline for issuing the cards to the voters. The interim order also stayed all the directions issued by the Election Commission to the effect that the poll will not be held unless the photo identity cards are issued to every eligible voter. A three-judge bench headed by the chief justice, Mr. A.M. Ahmadi, passed a brief order while admitting the writ petitions challenging the powers of the election commissioner to insist on cards as a precondition for holding of polls. The petitions were filed by the Orissa Government and an MP and some others from Bihar. The bench turned down the commission's move to set a new deadline for the concerned states to issue the cards. It, however, gave four weeks' time to counsel of Bihar to seek instructions whether the state government is willing to give an undertaking that it will complete the process of issuing the cards within a new deadline.

The Congress-I has hailed the Supreme Court's stay on the Election Commission's directive on the identity card issue. The party spokesman, Mr. Madan Bhatia, hoped that the ensuing elections in the six states will be held in time without any hitch.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, says the Election Commission will closely monitor the poll expenses incurred by the candidates. Talking to newsmen in Madras today, he said suitable action will be taken under law if candidates infringe the expenditure limit laid down by the Election Commission.

BJP Issues Policy Statement for Assembly Elections

BK1801021195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] policy statement for the coming assembly elections in six states promises to end corruption and criminalization of politics. Criticizing what it called the vote

bank politics, the document reiterates the BJP's commitment to a secular state. On economic policy, the party has reaffirmed the view that internal liberalization is desirable but not globalization. Referring to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, it said the party is firm on the construction of a temple at Ayodhya. A BJP spokesman said this policy statement is in addition to the manifesto to be released at the state level.

Country Attracts \$15 Billion in Foreign Investment

BK2201085995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's ambassador to the United States, Mr. Sidhartha Shankar Ray, has emphasized the need for speedy implementation of the agreements signed with foreign investors to reap the benefits of the ongoing economic reforms. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta, he said till August last year India attracted foreign investment of \$15 billion since the opening up of the economy.

Paper Supports Rejection of Social Clause in Trade

BK2101125295 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 21 Jan 95 p 13

[Editorial: "A Pernicious Clause"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rejection of social clause as a factor in international trade is so supportable that it can bear umpteen reiterations. Thus Prime Minister Narasimha Rao must be extended all the support that is necessary for him to mobilise the opinion of the entire developing world. When he referred to the issue at the inauguration of the fifth conference of Labour Ministers of non-aligned and developing countries in New Delhi on Thursday [19 January], he was in fact speaking on behalf of most if not the entire gathering. Spokesmen from five countries of Asia, Africa and South America supported the Indian position soon after Mr Rao spoke. There is little doubt that more voices will be heard against introducing the concept of social clause in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations in the future. Some time ago, before the WTO was formally launched on January 1 as the new avatar of GATT, non-aligned countries had given enough indication at an ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] meet that they would stoutly oppose the social clause in trade matters. Nothing has happened since then for the developing countries to revise their opinion. A typical issue which keeps coming up in a debate on social clause is child labour which supposedly gives the developing countries an unfair advantage because child workers are paid lower wages although this has no impact on the quality of exportable goods they produce, for example, carpets. The developed countries which have numerous ways of using local laws to neutralise trade advantages of developing countries, including

countervailing duties and quotas, are unabashedly insistent on all manner of rules that put the poor world in a disadvantageous position.

The question that must be squarely posed to the world which the G-7 leads is whether it believes in global following of the same brand of economic laws, now that the shadow of an evil empire does not vitiate relations between nations. The rich world wants to integrate the poor countries (a euphemism for emerging markets) into their economies, but would take no responsibility of the latter's social backwardness—in no small measure a consequence; of colonial rule by the former. Economics accepts the concept of comparative advantage. If today Asia, Africa and South America enjoy the advantage of relatively lower wages, the West must find an answer to this outside the social clause idea. The developing countries cannot object to the advantage of technological superiority that the rich world enjoys, and for understandable reasons. ILO [International Labor Organization] Deputy Director-General Herbert Maier is welcome to hope that the March world summit at Copenhagen on social development would take care of the social dimensions of liberalisation of world trade. The developing world will be happy if he proves right. Meanwhile the view will not disappear that the attempt to introduce social clause in trade is a political move to deprive the emerging economies of the natural advantages they might enjoy. It must be thwarted because it is pernicious.

Editorial Cites Western 'Selfishness' on Trade

BK2301092295 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 21 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "They Will Continue To Apply Pressure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While addressing the conference of labor ministers of the nonaligned and developing countries, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao very aptly referred to the coercive stance adopted by the Western countries. Through the various agreements made under the aegis of the international trade organization, GATT, these countries are using labor standards to exert pressure in order to gain control over the markets of the developing countries. This is their ultimate aim. The dream of the open world market they are trying to project will see many developing countries emerging as potential rivals who may prove to be tough competitors. These Western countries have been complaining that goods produced in developing countries are much cheaper than similar goods produced in the rich industrialized countries. They had been voicing this grievance in a variety of forums and are always striving to find ways to block the entry of goods produced by cheap labor into their markets. They also try to enforce labor standards on the developing countries that they were only able to enforce in their own markets after a very long process of industrialization. This is a very old and familiar tactic adopted by the Western countries—when you are about to lose in a competition, change the rules in your favor.

We cannot hope to prevail over them merely by wailing about their selfishness. The Western countries believe that serving their own interests is a natural and inalienable right. If we want to question their behavior, the best way is to stay clear of their game. With the reputation India has earned, it will always be seen as a country capable of erecting its own industrial infrastructure quite apart from the Western model and an example for others to emulate. Unfortunately, we seem to be continually walking into the economic trap set by the Western countries. Despite criticizing their method and style and shedding tears over their self-centered attitude, we continue to follow their methods and thus become easy prey for them to trap. The six points suggested by Prime Minister Rao at the conference conform to this trend of following their thought process. This trend seems to indicate that we have no complaints against the Western model; that all we desire is a grace period. Why should the Western countries grant any grace period? Their aim is to establish their supremacy in the world and spread it as far and wide as possible. They will continue to do this, and if necessary they will apply pressure by all possible means to achieve their aims.

Commentary Views Country's Debt Management Position

BK2301041095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Commentary by Nitu Chakravarti]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The World Bank has stressed that India is not in debt trap and its short term borrowings which are less than \$4 billion are far below the danger level. The issue on debt management had been under discussion since the new economic policy was adopted by the Narasimha Rao government in July 1991. Since the external debt is rising, is India confident enough to handle properly the external debt management without falling in the debt trap? Both the World Bank and the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] have produced data to show that the external payments are firm now and India is no way near a debt trap.

The RBI in its recent assessment has said that quick estimates of the balance of payments indicate that the strengthening of the external payment position, which had occurred in 1993-94, has continued into the first half of current financial year. During this period, the inflows in the capital account were dominated by foreign investment inflows—both direct and portfolio—which amounted to \$2.6 billion.

The inflows under direct foreign investment of \$0.5 billion during this period are now noteworthy since they were only a little less than the net inflows under the head for the year 1993-94. The bulk of the foreign investment inflows were in the form of issuance of global depository receipts to the level of \$0.9 billion while the investment by the foreign and institutional investors and offshore funds totalled \$1.2 billion during this period. Under

nonresident deposit accounts, there were shifts between schemes and response to policy induced restructuring. In the aggregate, these deposits both in net inflows of \$0.5 billion inclusive of a crude interest. A significant aspect of the external payment situation is that the surplus in the capital account of \$4.9 billion financed the current account, resulting in an overall surplus of \$4.5 billion during April-September 1994 period.

This is a welcome development since the country incurred huge current account deficit in both 1991-92 and 1992-93. The situation improved a bit in 1993-94 and now the current account situation is quite comfortable. The foreign exchange reserves of the country which have now touched \$20 billion will help government in planning a strategy to limit the short term borrowings so that there is no increase in debt servicing ratio.

Article Assails Missile Technology Control Regime

BK2001013095 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
12 Jan 95 p 8

[Article by Aman Hingorani: "India Should Ignore Biased MTCR"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India is under immense international pressure to adhere to the provisions of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The MTCR suffers from several inherent flaws. There is no logic for the MTCR member states to subject missile systems and technology to export control when they themselves make modern ground strike aircraft systems readily available in the highly competitive international market to those very states whose missile programmes raise such an alarm. Yet, there is a marked contrast between articulated concerns over missile proliferation in developing states and the indulgent attitude towards the spread of advanced aircraft in such states.

Also, the MTCR does not pertain to the regional missile forces which are already in existence. This is a bigger problem than fresh proliferation since nonavailability of foreign suppliers merely induces indigenous programmes in the proliferating states to develop and improve missiles on the blueprints of the existing missiles.

The proliferation of missiles and their increased use in regional conflicts is only part of the regional arms race. Hence any attempt to check missile proliferation must first address the causes of regional insecurity so as to convince the proliferating states that arms control is in their national interest also.

Export controls by few states alone cannot resolve the issue of missile proliferation; the limited membership of the MTCR renders it ineffective. There are simply too many potential technology suppliers whose ranks now include few developing states. Many of these states pool their resources and borrow technology from each other.

The MTCR covers only the suppliers of missiles and missile technology. Moreover, it has no common criteria for the degree of limitations on the supplies of specified items nor a range of countries on which they may be imposed. Each participant has a right to decide these questions at its own discretion.

Another major flaw of the MTCR relates to its applicability to dual-use technology. The MTCR professes that it does not relate to transfer of rocket technology for use in civilian applications such as space launch vehicles. However, only a technological illiterate would accept the hypothetical distinction between military and civilian rocket technology. Analysts have long argued that rocket technology is inherently dual purpose; in most western states, military rocket technology was used to develop civilian space programmes. Given that MTCR declares that it is not designed to impede national space programme and as every space programme necessarily uses rocket technology, the application of MTCR to dual-use technology renders it nonsensical. Inevitably, the artificial distinction made between military and civilian rocket technology has, on several occasions, resulted in head-on collisions between member or adherent states.

The MTCR is said to smack of technological apartheid which serves to preserve a western cartel by restricting flow of technology to developing states. Significantly, the developed states are themselves going ahead with improved varieties of missiles, both cruise and ballistic types. Hence, the MTCR is perceived by most analysts to be a rerun of the old familiar theme: developed states believe that missiles serve the cause of deterrence and stability when they are in their hands.

Finally, the MTCR is poorly and selectively applied by member states. The US which is the leading force behind the MTCR, has failed to apply nonproliferation standards globally. It is no secret that the US administration had approved substantial transfers of dual-use technologies to Iraq right up to the eve of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the MTCR which had been ushered in three years earlier was coolly ignored. At that time, Washington's security priority was apparently to damage Iran's interests even by strengthening Mr Saddam Husayn's military clout.

The non-proliferation regime has primarily sought to apply a technical approach to the issue of missile proliferation. The policy of technology denial, as exemplified with the formulation of the MTCR, has been a cornerstone and the lists of prohibited export items have grown longer and longer. Though this policy has no doubt delayed the domestic programmes in developing states, the long-term effects of such policy have been to promote indigenous development of nuclear and missile technologies. Technical constraints can buy time but they can neither contain the indigenous forces of technology in developing states nor resolve the proliferation problem.

***Lok Sabha Discusses Policy on Foreign Media**

95AS0171A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Dec 94 p 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Press Trust of India, New Delhi, December 8—The government will review the issue of entry of foreign electronic media in the country but there is no change in its earlier policy of not allowing foreign print media to operate here, Information and Broadcasting Minister K. P. Singh Deo told the Lok Sabha today.

Replying to a spate of supplementaries during question hour, he said government will have to go into the issue in the wake of the satellite blitzkrieg. However, it would be too premature to say anything at this stage.

The minister reiterated that the decision taken by the government in 1955 prohibiting entry of foreign print media "still stands."

"There is no change in view in the matter of entry of foreign print media in the country. The government continues to be guided by 1955 policy decision which provides that no foreign owned newspaper/periodical should be permitted to be published in India," he said.

He said recommendations had been given by both the ministerial group and a committee of secretaries which had been asked to examine the issue.

BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader L. K. Advani wanted to know whether the government had taken any decision on the entry of foreign news agencies in the country.

Mr Singh Deo said there has been only one arrangement between PTI [Press Trust of India] and Reuter three years back. This was on a selective basis.

The minister said if necessary, he could furnish details in this regard to the house.

Several members including Mr Brahmanand Mandal, CPI [Communist Party of India], Mr Rabi Ray, JD [Janata Dal], and others sought more details on the recommendations made by the specially constituted ministerial group.

The minister said he did not think it was appropriate to divulge the information at this stage to the house.

The members also wanted to know whether the government was contemplating in bringing forward any legislation to prevent entry of foreign media in the country.

Mr Singh Deo said the government had received five applications including one for a tie up between the FINANCIAL TIMES and Ananda Bazaar Patrika group. "Government has not given any permission as yet," he said.

Electronic Media Privatization Being Considered

BK2401094195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The center is actively considering privatization of the electronic media; namely, All

India Radio and Doordarshan [television]. Disclosing this while inaugurating a seminar in Madras this morning, the secretary to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Bhaskar Ghosh, said a group of ministers are examining the pros and cons of the matter. Mr. Ghosh added that the growth of private electronic media in India is inevitable in view of the emergence of commercial broadcasting scenario all over the world. However, he felt that public service broadcasting should not be given up even if the electronic media is privatized.

Iran**Third Phase of Military Exercise Completed**

LD2301154095 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Jan. 23, IRNA—The third phase of a military exercise codenamed 'T.M. 73-2' was successfully carried out in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf waters Monday [23 January].

During the war games, navy ships and Air Force planes carried out several tactical operations to demonstrate their combat prowess, Captain Gholamreza Masumi told IRNA. The other phases of the maneuver are to be conducted as of January 29, Captain Masumi added.

First Edition of New Newspaper Published

LD2101114395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0345 GMT on 21 January carries a one-minute press review during the "My Land" program, which reports the following:

"The first edition of the newspaper IRAN, was published today with the headline: 'We Have Come Among You.' The daily announces the people's expectations from the newspaper IRAN as: First, the prayer-giver. Write for the satisfaction of God, and you will definitely be successful.

"In its editorial entitled: 'My Iran,' the newspaper writes: My Iran, with you, the sweetest tongue of love begins to speak. With you, the reddest bow of faith ascends. With you, the most beautiful poppy of spring gets the aroma of acacia. With you, the most pure image of doves in love fly on a pilgrimage to the Ka'bah of love. With you, the exiled streets and alleys of martyrdom become acquainted with you."

Commentary Views U.S., Israeli 'Allegations'

NC2101115195 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Jan 95 p 3

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "The Game of Threats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the recent comments by the U.S. secretary of defense in Cairo and Jerusalem on threats against regional security by countries like Iran

are not unexpected and unprecedented, they call for some explanations and observations.

Expressing concern over Russian-Iranian cooperation in making the Bushehr Power Plant operational and repeating baseless allegations on Iran's arms purchases from China, Perry said that "Iran is posing a growing threat against the international community: one, because it has nuclear arms and, two, because of its support for international terrorism."

The first issue—that Iran "has nuclear arms"—can be examined from various angles. First of all, international reports by the most important and reliable nuclear arms circles such as the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] show that these allegations by the White House are completely false and baseless. (A report was published by IAEA Chief Hans Blix in April 1994 in Tehran stating that Iran's nuclear programs are nonmilitary).

Second, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not only an official member of the IAEA and has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it has always opened up the doors of its power plants and nuclear installations to IAEA inspectors. According to IAEA officials, the officials in Tehran have always cooperated extensively with IAEA inspectors.

On the contrary, the Zionist regime which—according to Western news agencies and not on the basis of reports by its "enemies"—has between 100 and 200 nuclear warheads. Also, not only has it not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it also prevents international inspectors from visiting its nuclear installations, namely its active nuclear installations in Demona.

Third, apart from the positive reports by official world organizations, there are no confirmed report by reliable unofficial sources, namely by the world press, that Iran has succeeded in manufacturing nuclear weapons. Mr. Perry has forgotten that even the baseless allegations by some Zionist newspapers only reported on "Tehran's efforts to gain access to nuclear arms" and not what he alleges: that Iran "has nuclear weapons." The interesting point is that, despite their many animosities against Tehran, even some official American sources do not accept Perry's allegations. (Reference is made to a report in February 1994 by former CIA Director James Woolsey to Congress stating that reports that Iran has acquired nuclear weapons have not been confirmed).

The other point is that even America's regional allies such as Egypt admit that the Zionist regime does have nuclear potential and that Tel Aviv's non-adherence to the treaty is unacceptable. This is at a time when America is disregarding the just protests not only from Iran, but also from its closest regional ally—Egypt. And America has even declared that safeguarding Israeli military supremacy in the region is America's duty.

As for Tehran's support for terrorism, the Americans are well aware that in the dozens of cases that they have

opened against Iran on this issue they have not been able to support a strong argument that can accuse Iran. All the courts that have been studying these cases have stated that they cannot condemn Tehran.

Relieving Iran of accusations against it in cases such as the assassination of Bakhtiar in December 1994; the assassination of Kazem Rajavi, one of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] leaders in December 1993; and refuting Iran's involvement in the assassination of Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi according to Mubarak on 3 December 1993 can be listed as examples.

Contrary to this, in addition to massacring innocent people in Palestine and Lebanon, the Israelis have repeatedly taken on responsibility for the assassination of the leaders of anti-Zionist groups in the region. The assassination of dozens of combatant leaders in the region such as Shaykh Raghib Harb and Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi; the abduction of combatants such as al-Dirani and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd; and the torturing of Hamas leader Shaykh Yasin all show how serious the Zionists are in pursuing their terrorist policies.

In view of all these clear facts, do the statesmen in Washington still consider Iran to be a terrorist country and Israel to be innocent?

But the serious question that emerges at this point is: Why has pressure from America and the Zionist regime against Iran increased at this specific juncture? Obviously there are not many reasons why these pressures should be intensified at this time.

The failure of the joint efforts by 'Arafat and the Zionist regime to crush or to drag Hamas, the Islamic jihad, and all the forces involved in the intifadah into the compromise process; increased contacts between officials in Damascus and Tehran for more cooperation in the anticompromise process in the region; the instability in the Western countries and the relative strengthening of the faction that opposes the compromise process; and the threat felt by the rulers of some Arab countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia from the consequences of their closer ties with Israel are all noteworthy points.

Of course, it is necessary to note that pressure on Iran and threats that its nuclear installations will be bombed constitute part of a comprehensive plan to disarm the opponents of the compromise process in the region while emphasizing that Iran—as the most major ideological enemy of Zionism—is the main target of these pressures.

Among the most important parts of this coordinated program, reference can be made to the arrest, the torture, and the assassination of Palestinian combatants; the pressures inflicted on Beirut to harness the Hizballah and to distance the sphere of Hizballah's influence from Beirut on the pretext of security cooperation; the pressure on Damascus to sever its cooperation with Islamic officials and to sign the compromise deal; threats and

intimidation of Iran by accusing it of supporting terrorism and of manufacturing nuclear arms and threatening to carry out a military attack on its nuclear installations; establishing political and economic relations between the littoral Arab states in the Persian Gulf and the Zionist regime in a bid to isolate Damascus and bring the Zionists closer to Iran's security borders; and granting Jordan the role of a middleman in the effort to establish relations between Baghdad and Tel Aviv all form part of a scenario that is aimed at crushing any type of opposition against absolute American and Zionist domination in the region.

Meanwhile, reports are published on border clashes between regional Arab countries, on the existence of domestic unrest in these countries, and on the concern felt by some reactionary Arab regime over the outcome of new diplomatic overtures by the Zionist regime. All these have increased the need of the friends of America and of Israel for a secondary issue that can distract attention and thus decrease propaganda pressures.

But with all these commotions, threats, and intimidations, America and its Zionist minions in the region are well aware that Iran is not Iraq, that it will not remain silent in the face of a possible Israeli attack on its nuclear installations, and that despite Iran's wish not to kindle a regional war, the government and nation of Iran are not afraid to come to blows with the Zionists.

KEYHAN Criticizes U.S, Israeli 'Threats'

NC2201093995 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jan 95
p 2

[Commentary by M. Shahidi: "Iran's Atomic Bomb!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is the intention behind the American and Israeli psychological operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the course of which they are alleging that "Iran is to acquire the atomic bomb within the next five to 10 years?" What hidden objectives are the American and Israeli officials pursuing with this propaganda onslaught? The following facts may help to give a clear picture behind all these efforts:

1. Israel, with its 200 atomic bombs, is currently the sole nuclear country in the region. This regime has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and is not prepared to do so, either.

The Zionist regime's policy is one of strategic superiority over all the regional countries, even if peace is established in the Middle East. Therefore, under no circumstances will it be ready to destroy its atomic weapons.

2. Israel opposes the existence of any other nuclear power in the region, and the joint American-Israeli strategy is to prevent Islamic countries from acquiring the atomic bomb. Israel's attack in 1981 on Iraq's nuclear installations in Tamuz and increasing American pressures on Pakistan to stop its nuclear programs

should all be viewed within this context. The diplomacy of threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran also pursues the same objective.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran is among the first signatories of the treaty and on several occasions it has stated its explicit stance on the need to keep the Middle East area away from nuclear competition.

Our Foreign Ministry spokesman stated on Wednesday: The Islamic Republic of Iran considers a balance of power based on the annihilation of nuclear weapons to be more logical for human life and world peace and security rather than one based on nuclear competition. Also, officials of world organizations have inspected Iran's nuclear installations and have stressed the peace-seeking and nonmilitary aspects of Iran's nuclear power plants.

In view of these facts, which are not a secret to anyone, it seems that the roots of Israel's threats that are definitely in full coordination with American policies are forming new realities in the region:

A. America and Israel have failed in their efforts to form an "international alliance" against the Islamic Republic of Iran. From the point of view of strategists in Washington and Tel Aviv, propounding the threat of Iran's nuclear weapons can bring the views of Western countries on Iran closer to each other.

B. American pressure through its Western allies has not had the least effect on Iran's stance in opposing the peace process. Apparently, by propounding the issue of Iran's weapons of mass destruction weapons, America is trying to achieve its political ends in the region and to push the so-called peace process forward.

C. By fanning the flames of the issue of Iran's arms policy, Israel is also pursuing at least two strategic objectives:

—Preventing the Arabs from coming closer to Iran on the pretext that Iran is trying to achieve superiority and by keeping the Arabs busy with the imaginary threat of Iran.

—Giving a negative answer to the Arabs' demands on keeping the Middle East area free from nuclear weapons on the pretext that it is being threatened by Iran. Even Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak spoke about the link between Israel's nuclear weapons and the peace process for the first time at the Casablanca conference.

D. Possibly the agreement between Iran and Russia for the completion of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant—80 percent of the construction has been completed—has played an effective role in sparking off the American-Israeli psychological war against Iran. Iranian and Russian cooperation is important from the Americans' point of view since until now America has prevented its Western allies from cooperating with Iran in completing the said project.

As to how effective Israel's threats against Iran and setting a deadline to carry out this threat can be is an important point that should be assessed and examined from various angles.

Apparently the experience of the attack on Iraq's nuclear installations is used as a directive for the Zionist regime's recent threat against Iran. But certainly the Israeli officials are well aware that the regional conditions now are very different from those that prevailed in the 1980's and Iran has proven that it is able to defend itself.

Moreover, if the Zionist officials want to continue their "diplomacy of threat" and to intimidate Iran and to prevent it from achieving its objectives, they should know that this is not an effective tool and that a country that uses all its potential to fight against the illegitimate Zionist regime will not give up but will rely on its national and ultranational potential to respond to these threats.

Narcotics Meeting Yields 'Positive' Results

LD2301224195 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of a two-day joint session of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Nations, and Pakistan in Tehran, emphasis was placed—within the framework of tripartite cooperation—on the serious confrontation against narcotics dealers and on finding new ways to prevent the smuggling of drugs across the borders of Iran and Pakistan.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr. (Turvian), director of the United Nation's anti-narcotics program, and Mr. Muhammad Zia al-Haq, head of Pakistan's anti-narcotics headquarters—who are in Tehran to participate in the session—met this morning with Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who is also the deputy director of our country's anti-narcotics headquarters. During this meeting, Mr. Besharati referred to the positive results of the session and the steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward fighting narcotics.

He said: The main aim of the drug convoys entering Iran is to merely pass through our territory en route to their final destination, which is Europe. With our serious and firm confrontation against these merchants, not only are we safeguarding our own youth against drug addiction, but we are also assisting the Europeans to fight the plight of addiction.

Reasons Given for Keeping Sanctions on Iraq

NC2201085195 *Tehran HAMSIIAHRI in Persian 16 Jan 95 p 15*

[Commentary by Ahmad Zeydabadi: "The Continuation of Sanctions on Iraq and America's Hidden Motives"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Because of American and British pressure and despite Russian and French opposition, the UN Security Council once again renewed the international sanctions on Iraq for another two months without issuing any statement. The question that should be asked is: What are the objectives of America and Britain in insisting that these sanctions continue?

If their intention is to overthrow the Iraqi Government, it seems that everyone has been convinced by now that the sanctions cannot achieve this and—as many Western observers admit—the continuation of these sanctions have even strengthened the Iraqi Government's position.

If their intention is to dismember Iraq, as the officials in Baghdad claim, again it seems improbable that with the composition of the population in Iraq new independent entities can emerge, especially in southern Iraq, which will work to the benefit of America, Britain, and their regional allies, especially Saudi Arabia.

Despite the declaration of its official stances, America has realized that there is no "suitable alternative" for the Iraqi Government and that if the current rule disintegrates, only threatening chaos will rule over Iraq, as is proven by the bloody clashes among the rival Kurdish groups in the north. The creation of another Afghanistan in such a strategic area will not benefit the Western powers headed by America.

Of course, since the Americans have a psychological problem with Saddam, their wish is that individuals from within the Ba'thist Party or the Iraqi Army will remove him without the disintegration of Iraq's military-political structure or any radical changes. But the various aborted coups in Iraq have shown that such movements cannot be very successful, and it is hard to believe that the continuation of the sanctions will automatically create a rift among Iraq's ruling class.

Therefore, one can assume that America's insistence on continuing the sanctions is because of a more complicated plan, which is linked to the Middle East policy of the White House.

After the Persian Gulf war, America's Middle East policy has concentrated on ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and on inflicting pressure on Arab countries to accept Israel's superiority. Since the balance of power in the region now is to the detriment of the Arabs more than ever before, it is improbable that what has been named the "Middle East peace process" will proceed according to Israel's wishes. This peace process—from America's point of view—should lead to a situation where a common economic society is formed in the Middle East in which Israel will provide the technological and technical force and the Arabs will provide the necessary capital and manpower, thus creating a sphere of American economic and commercial influence to compete with Europe and Japan.

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Nevertheless, the "peace process" has not progressed completely, according to the wishes of America and Britain. In this midst, Syria is displaying obstinacy and continues to insist on its initial demand for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the Golan. Syria and Israel have used all the instruments at their disposal to promote their policy. But none of these instruments have been strong enough to make the other side surrender. Thus, the two sides have started to think of using a checkmated pawn. This pawn is Iraq, which was set aside after the Persian Gulf war. But frankly speaking, how can an isolated Iraq be considered to carry any weight?

In view of Iraq's current anti-Israeli stances, Syria and some other Arab countries are trying to return Iraq to the bosom of the Arab nations so that they can bargain with Israel from a stronger position. However, America and Israel have taken the utmost advantage of the schisms among the Arabs. They are trying to neutralize efforts by Arab countries and some Western and regional allies to bring Iraq out of its isolation and are trying to make Iraq understand that emerging from isolation and ending the sanctions can be achieved only through Israel. Therefore, as long as the Baghdad rulers are not prepared to accept this, pressure will continue. Actually, America is trying to make things difficult for Saddam so that as a "pragmatist" he will abandon all his current stances and give in to what America wants. This is at a time when the objective of countries like Syria is to free Iraq of its crisis by maintaining its current stances.

Daily Criticizes Rushdie's Interview With BBC

LD2201221895 Tehran IRNA in English 2129 GMT
22 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—According to a fax received here today from an English-language daily "TEHRAN TIMES" an editorial for Monday's issue of the daily attacks Salman Rushdie for comments he made on a BBC interview broadcast Sunday [22 January].

On a program aired yesterday on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Bombay-born author of the Satanic verses, claimed that the British Foreign Office had informed him of the existence of some people at the Iranian Embassy in London who were planning to kill him, writes the editorial.

This is not the first time Salman Rushdie has made an attempt at self-advertisement. As in his books, where with a preposterous gift of gab he weaves reality with falsehood, so in reality, he has stretched the limit of his imagination once again, and that of his gullible western listeners, to arrive at the conclusion that Iran's hired assassins are residing at Iranian Embassy. What proofs did he offer for his accusation none, as usual.

Muslims of course are not going to forgive or forget Salman Rushdie, as forgettable and trivial his character

might be. So whose memory is Rushdie trying to refresh in whose memory does he want to immortalize himself says the daily.

Rushdie wants to let the people in the West know that he is not dead, even though, like a necrophiliac, he loves talking about death. The Western media of course adores the pathetic figure of a writer in constant flight to save his life, especially since this writer happens to escape from the "Islamic fundamentalists," the people the Western media love to hate, the daily commented.

The daily asserts that Rushdie's emergence as the Western-supported author of the book that bought the Muslim ire, can be explained in terms of the Western attitude towards the burgeoning Islamic movement.

The Rushdie phenomenon, as repeated in its feminine version, [passage indistinct] the West will find and support all the permutations of the writers within the Islamic world whose writings are offense [words indistinct] of the Muslims.

But what should the Muslim world do to stop this constant flow of renegade writers that fly to the West in search of better pastures the Muslim world needs to have more writers, especially in the English language, that can present the genuine Islam to the Westerners, the daily commented.

Rushdie and Nasrin would have us believe that they have a solid following among the Western people. It is not true. It is only the Western governments and pressure groups that have taken up the unholy cause of attacking Islam through the writings and pronouncements of Muslim-born writers.

The editorial also added that Westerners have their own holy personalities, their own taboos, so they would not want any writer to break the international norms of decency. Once these barriers break, then any religion or idea is fair game.

The Westerners are hungry for the truth of al-Islam. Every time there is a crisis in the world involving Muslims and the West, most bookshops in major western capitals have a record high sale of the Holy Qoran. Sometimes, they run out of the holy books and have to call the publishers to re-stock them, daily wrote.

With such thirst and curiosity among the western people, Muslim propagation of Islam has gained some momentum. It is one of the peculiar features of our resilient faith that the more it comes under attack, the stronger it becomes, that the more it is attacked, the more interest it creates on the part of non-Muslims, the editorial concluded.

Oil Imports to Japan Increase 20%

LD2001202795 Tehran IRNA in English 2018 GMT
20 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Iran exported 20 percent more oil to Japan in 1994 compared to the year before.

According to a report in the weekly, PETROLEUM ARGUS, Japan during the first eleven months of 1994 imported an average of 448,000 barrels a day of Iranian crude.

It said Iranian oil exports to Japan in 1993 totalled 372,000 barrels per day.

The statistics published by PETROLEUM ARGUS indicates that Japan last year imported an average of 4.61 million barrels per day of crude oil, indicating an increase of 5 percent compared to 1993.

According to the report Japan at present imports 70 percent of its oil requirements from the Middle East, whereas a year ago its dependency on Middle East oil was 67 percent.

***Oil From Broken Pipeline Pollutes Zahrah River**
95LA0081G Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Dec 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Gachsaran—IRNA: As the result of the breaking and settling of an oil pipeline in the Gachsaran fresh water region, about 30 km of the Zahrah River has been polluted with oil.

An informed source in the Gachsaran environmental protection office announcing the above, added: Saturday [17 December] this week during road-building operations near this route, the oil pipeline was broken, and a significant quantity of oil leaked into the Zahrah River.

He said: Because of the polluting of the river, the drinking and agricultural water of the rural people living near this river, as well as the region's aquatic life, were polluted and there were ensuing problems.

He said: Despite the repair and reconstruction of the oil pipeline, nothing has yet been done to eliminate the pollution.

Despite repeated contacts, the Gachsaran Oil Company has refused to give any explanation for this.

***Official on Activities of Tire Industry**

95LA0081I Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The current price of tires on the free market is artificial and is 50 to 60 percent higher than the approved price. These prices will soon be broken by measures to be taken by tire factories, the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Commerce.

IRNA reports that Engineer Mahmud 'Abdol-Tian, general manager of chemical and cellulose industries in the Ministry of Industries, discussed the above yesterday in a press conference. He added: In the first nine months of the current year [21 March-21 December 1994] the nation's factories produced more than 82,000 tons of tires, a 55 percent increase over the same period last year.

'Abdol-Tian added: Based on the plans and predictions that have been made, by the end of the current year [20 March 1995] production of various types of tires by the nation's factories will reach 110,000 tons.

He discussed the fact that the nation needs 160,000 tons of tires annually. He said: Part of the current problem is the shortage of tires leading to imports, and the other part has to do with the procedure for distribution.

The general manager of chemical and cellulose industries in the Ministry of Industries said: Based on statistics, so far this year 15,000 tons of various types of needed tires were imported into the country, and to make up the remaining 35,000-ton shortage, all merchants may import any amount of tires they wish up to the specified limit.

'Abdol-Tian emphasized the fact that the price of tires is artificial. He said: The high prices for tires has absolutely nothing to do with the nation's tire-making factories. These units have sold their products based at the approved prices according to supervision that is being exercised, and they have committed no violations.

Pakistan

Editorial Urges U.S. To Return F-16 Money

BK2001143295 Lahore JANG in Urdu 20 Jan 95 p 3

[Editorial: "The Country's Defense Needs and the F-16 Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The revival of the Consultative Group between Pakistan and the United States for consultations on various issues as a result of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's talks during his visit to Pakistan could well be described as a positive development. However, the suspension of the supply of F-16 planes to Pakistan despite having paid for them is likely to continue. The indication from the U.S. authorities that the planes will be sold to a third country and the funds then returned to Pakistan implies that the stalemate is not going to be resolved soon. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto the other day had boisterously demanded that the United States either supply the F-16 planes forthwith or refund the money.

In view of the recent U.S.-India defense agreement and India's aggressive designs and persistent arms buildup, the Government of Pakistan should accelerate its efforts to find alternative sources to strengthen its defense and employ every possible means to secure the early return of the money it paid for the F-16 planes. If the issue cannot be resolved through diplomatic means, then Pakistan should not hesitate to approach the International Court of Justice.

U.S. Praised for Stance on Kashmir War

BK2101135295 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 21 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S. Will Not Allow a War Over Kashmir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh has said that the United States has made it clear to India that Washington will not let a war break out in South Asia on the question of Kashmir. During his recent tour, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry told Indian leaders that they should stop thinking about a war on the issue of Kashmir. He also said that the settlement of the Kashmir dispute is essential for peace in South Asia. This shows that the U.S. defense secretary has recognized the importance of the Kashmir dispute.

The Pakistani foreign secretary said that the visit of the U.S. defense secretary has contributed to the expansion of relations between Pakistan and the United States, which now has a better perception of Pakistan's viewpoints on the nuclear program and other regional issues and has not insisted on Islamabad's signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unilaterally. The United States wants to maintain an evenhanded approach toward both India and Pakistan. Perry's visit has brightened the prospects for an expansion in Pakistan-U.S. ties notwithstanding the Pressler Amendment. The Pakistan-U.S. Consultative Group will review the question of the F-16 aircraft, but it is not necessary that the planes will be delivered to Pakistan immediately.

On Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's proposed visit to the United States in April, the foreign secretary said one of the objectives of this visit is to apprise the newly elected Republican leadership in the U.S. Congress of Pakistan's stand on Kashmir, the nuclear program, the Pressler Amendment, and security problems.

The reasons for and objectives of the U.S. defense secretary's visit to the Indian subcontinent, as described by the Pakistani foreign secretary, are undoubtedly significant. From a South Asian perspective, it is not possible for the United States to attach special importance to any one country. Washington will be able to play a constructive role in this region only by placing both India and Pakistan on an equal footing. As for the question of a war on Kashmir, it will depend on the attitude of India; however, New Delhi will have to keep in mind the viewpoints of other global powers, including the United States.

Government Chided for Abandoning Economic Targets

BK2101110495 Islamabad *THE NATION* in English
21 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Futility of Targets"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The targets outlined by the government in its budget presented on June 9th 1994 have now formally been abandoned by the government. In their place new revised targets have been outlined in consultation with the IMF/World Bank. The accord was necessary if the Government of Pakistan was to have continued access to more loans from international agencies. Given that the deficit reduction target is also not

being met, the reliance on aid is likely to rise rather than decrease in the budget for fiscal year 1995-96. Hence, by the latest estimates, the growth rate would rise at an average of 6.5 per cent instead of the 7.5 per cent envisaged at the beginning of the year, though in the current fiscal year, growth is expected to be considerably lower than the average. One assumes that both the Government of Pakistan and the World Bank/IMF are betting their money on the hope that the weather conditions would be favourable to increased crop output in the next two years. The current inflation rate of 14 per cent is targetted to be reduced to 5 per cent. This will not be possible unless the government reduces money supply, which incidentally it increased this week by 4.15 per cent more than the target set earlier in the year, and though lower deficits. The government insists that it will meet the 4 per cent of GDP deficit target outlined earlier in the year though decrease in money supply and lower public sector borrowing or to lower the money supply. Finally, there was agreement that the Government of Pakistan would increase reliance on Value-Added Tax [VAT] as a source of revenue while decreasing reliance on customs duties. The effect of this so far has been lower tax revenue than ever before, a fact which the Prime Minister recently stated she would take up with World Bank officials. At the same time, inflation has risen because of heavier reliance on VAT, according to economists.

The foregoing points to the inability of the government to meet pre-election promises. The Prime Minister's claims at that time were that the Nawaz Sharif government had wrecked the economic fabric of the country by overspending, both in terms of allocations and credit, by failing to allocate the right priorities to expenditure, implying thereby that the Motorway was of less importance than say providing clean drinking water, and by failing to control the rate of inflation. She made the commitment that she would adopt fiscal and monetary discipline and thereby reduce the macro-economic distortions. A year later the distortions are there and the targets are being renegotiated. It is imperative that the government undertakes monetary discipline otherwise the time is not far when an average Pakistani would see that he made a big mistake in electing the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government.

Jl 'Will Not' Support President's Impeachment

BK2201095295 Islamabad *THE NATION* in English
22 Jan 95 pp 1,4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore—Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] will not support impeachment of President Farooq Leghari, in case there is any such move as its leadership thinks that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is solely responsible for all the mess the country is in.

This was cautiously hinted at by Jamaat-i-Islami. Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmad while addressing a Meet the Press Programme organised by Lahore Media Forum at the Press Club on Saturday [21 January] afternoon. He was

briefing newsmen about the first phase of his three-month-long Tehrik-e-Bidari-e-Millat [Movement for Awakening the Nation] which ended on Saturday (today).

Qazi Hussain Ahmad reaffirmed his commitment to support the Opposition if it tabled a no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister though he personally felt that neither an in house change in the National Assembly nor snap polls would bring about any positive change in the system.

He said in case the "no-confidence move" succeeds there is nobody whom Jamaat-i-Islami can trust for the premiership, be it Nawaz Sharif or Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. But still we are committed to the Opposition: Show us 106 MNAs [members of the National Assembly] and our 3 members will support you and so will be the case in the Frontier Assembly where we have four MPAs [members of provincial assemblies].

Fielding questions on this occasion, the Jamaat Chief said the decision taken by his party in the 1993 elections was correct as "we have seen clear signs of the people coming on the path we have shown to them". To him the Jamaat had laid strong foundations for a system that could guarantee a strong and prosperous Pakistan.

Answering a question about the split in Jamaat-i-Islami which resulted in the formation of a separate faction headed by Manlana Naeem Siddiqui, he denied all rumours about differences in the party leadership. He said Naeem Siddiqui parted ways with the Jamaat, probably for the reason he could not pull together with the Party.

There appeared to be a clear shift in Qazi Hussain Ahmad's stance towards the Army when he said "we only want the Army top brass to take care of the matters concerning internal and external security of Pakistan. Prior to this he had been very critical of the role of the Army leadership vis-a-vis national politics and had been targeting it for long.

Qazi was satisfied with the response he got from the people over the past three months during his Tehrik, drawing a conclusion that Jamaat-i-Islami was the most organised political force in the country that had a potential to mobilise public opinion on any national issue.

He said the Tehrik had actually been launched to propagate our "message" to the masses through selected persons representing various walks of life and not to demonstrate "our political strength". However, he said at certain stages we had managed to hold big rallies like it was in Rawalpindi before William Perry's visit to Pakistan. Qazi was a changed man today as he unequivocally supported protection of women rights as one thing he had told ulema during this Tehrik: "Don't fall prey to the conspiracy that has been hatched to keep you criticising women." He was obsessed with a feeling that no revolution can succeed without active participation of women.

He was firm in his opinion that a revolution was imperative at this stage so as to stave off bloodshed and complete chaos in the country. He said the people were fed up with the present regime and wanted an alternative and effective leadership that could guide them to pull the country out of the quagmire.

The plan he outlined was to gather "good and loyal people" from all parties and groups on one platform so as to bring forward a leadership that could deliver in accordance with the wishes of the nation. It may be mentioned that Pakistan Islamic front had also been formed on this idea but it failed to muster enough support in the last elections.

Qazi Hussain said the nation wanted a leadership which could protect the national interests than acting on the dictates of their foreign masters. It wanted a leadership that could form a strong Muslim bloc based on Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asian Republic to counter the hegemonistic designs of India and other and-Islamic forces.

He said nuclear deterrent was the major requirement of Pakistan and we wanted a leadership that could resist the American pressure for the rollback of our nuclear programme. Said he; "In a similar manner we cannot give up our principled stance on the Kashmir issue come what may".

He was also critical of the government's recent move of leasing out a big chunk of land to Oman in Gwadar, saying it cannot be compared with the land given to Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan in Rahimyar at Khan, as had been stated by the President and other leaders of the ruling party. To him Oman is the agent of Israel and the United States.

To a question, he expressed his serious reservations about the recently held Casablanca Summit saying it was in fact organised to adopt resolutions against Islamic movements emerging in the world as well as to persuade the Muslim World to recognise Israel.

The Jamaat chief disagreed with a questioner that all along his Tehrik-e-Bidari-e-Millat he did not speak about the Kashmir issue with that vigour. He said wherever the Muslims were struggling for their liberation, be it Kashmir, Bosnia or Chechnya, the Jamaat had been and would be supporting them.

Asked if he could not gauge the gravity of a situation when he let the PPP [Pakistan Peoples Party] come into power by not joining hands with Nawaz Sharif in the last general election, he said: "At present, PPP is responsible for all the crises, but still if you want me to target Nawaz Sharif I am ready for that".

Bhutto Serves Notice to Paper for False Reporting

BK2301135195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has served a legal notice on the Rawalpindi daily THE NEWS and

its reporter for publishing an allegedly false and malicious report about the prime minister in its issue of 23 January 1995. The (?impugned) report in the newspaper had alleged that the prime minister in her meeting recently with the British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, had asked the British foreign secretary to extradite to Pakistan the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leader, Mr. Altaf Hussain, who is living in self-exile in London. The notice served through counsel said that the prime minister is a stateswoman of international status, widely respected in Pakistan and outside for her struggle for the restoration of constitutional rule and democratic system in the country. The said report implies that the prime minister is narrow-minded, vindictive, revengeful, and it is the malicious attempt to tarnish her image, the notice said. The prime minister regards the holding of demonstration by any political party as a democratic right and is not at all concerned by the MQM demonstration in London recently nor has she requested at any time for the extradition of Mr. Altaf Hussain, the notice further said. The counsel for the prime minister demanded a conditional [as heard] apology and retraction from the newspaper and the reporter for the entire story within three days. The notice said the retraction and apology should be published as prominently as was the original report. Legal proceedings against the newspaper and the reporter will be initiated under provisions of the relevant laws if the retraction and apology are not published within three days, the notice said.

Sri Lanka

Pope John Paul II Arrives for 24-Hour Visit

BK2001130795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Holiness Pope John Paul-II arrived in Colombo an hour ago to commence his historic 24 hour visit to Sri Lanka. The Pope will beatify venerable Father Joseph (Clarke) and missionary [as heard] who worked in this country during the Dutch persecution in the 17th century. The Pope arrived at the Colombo International Airport at 1500 [0930 GMT] from Australia in a special Qantas flight.

The Pope will be accorded state honors with the 21-gun salute at the Presidential Secretariat premises a short while from now. This will be followed by discussions between the pontiff and President Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga. A postage stamp too will be issued this evening to commemorate the Pope's visit and the beatification of Reverend Father Joseph (Clarke). Later, his holiness will conduct a special service at St. Lucia's Cathedral in Colombo later in the evening. The beatification of Father Joseph (Clarke) will be ceremonially conducted tomorrow at 0930 in the morning.

Fourth Round Peace Talks Expected 28 Jan

BK2401120795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fourth round of peace talks between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] is expected to resume on Saturday [28 January], official sources said. Defense Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe said the principal subjects on the agenda for the talks are the reopening of the Sangupiddy-Karaitivu route and the Elephant Pass route and the emergency reconstruction/rehabilitation program of the North. General Wanasinghe explained that the government is willing to partially accede to the LTTE demand that there would be no checks on passengers to and from the Jaffna Peninsula and to move back the Pooneryn camp by 500 meters.

A member of the government peace delegation, Navin Gunaratne, said that before leaving for the north, the task force on the 39 billion rupee rehabilitation of the Northern Province will meet at the Presidential Secretariat on Friday.

The cessation of hostilities between the LTTE and the government is now in force satisfactorily since it was introduced two weeks ago. The agreement for the cessation of hostilities came into force on the eighth of this month. No incident has so far been reported, according to a spokesman of the Ministry of Defense. Radio contacts have also been established between the LTTE and commanders of the security forces. The spokesman said that this will help to solve any problem which might arise.

Cessation of Hostilities Continues To Hold

BK2301120595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cessation of hostilities, which came into effect at midnight on 7 January, continued without any incident for the 15th day yesterday and the government relaxed the economic embargo further making LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]-held northern areas easier. A military spokesman said that the cessation of hostilities was holding. Defense Ministry announced the lifting of the ban on 12 items which included printing equipment, toys, guns, electric and electronic items, motor spares, torch light batteries—large size, and electric wares. The spokesman said the ban on 18 more items is still on. A government spokesman said some of these items too may be taken out of the embargo as the situation improves. The LTTE asked the government delegation on 14 January for the lifting of the embargo on all items used by civilians.

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Economic Embargo on Jaffna Further Relaxed

BK2201123795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The People's Alliance administration has further relaxed the economic embargo on the Jaffna peninsula. The Ministry of Defense yesterday lifted the ban on 12 more items to northern areas in line with an agreement reached at the last round of peace talks a week ago. REUTERS news agency quoted a defense ministry statement as saying that restrictions have been relaxed on electronic equipment, electric wires, aluminum ball bearings, motor vehicle spares, gold, chemicals, printing machines, and all types of batteries except penlight battery. This decision of the government brought to 30 the number of items which have been taken off the list of banned goods to the north.

The government had previously eased the ban to allow items including medicines, soap, and coconut oil.

Meanwhile, Defense Ministry sources said that the government delegation was now making preparation for the fourth round of peace talks to be held in Jaffna. A government team led by Professor A.M. Gunasingham was in the northern peninsula to meet all heads of government departments and the GA [Government Agent] Jaffna, (K. Poonambalam), in connection with the proposed 39-billion-rupee emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction program for the accelerated development of the north.

The two-week cessation of hostilities continued for the 13th day without any serious violations by both sides. The government wants the talks to start next month, but the Tigers demand the opening of a land route to the Jaffna peninsula and a total lifting of the embargo beforehand.

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